

LESSON 8

Pitch Deck: Slides That Don't Put People to Sleep

60 minutes

Presenting & Pitching

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

Build a 5-slide pitch deck using a simple structure: Hook, What it is, Why it matters, The numbers, The ask. You'll reuse content from your portfolio and practise pacing with speaker notes.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Plan a 5-slide pitch using Hook, What it is, Why it matters, The numbers, The ask structure.
- Apply a consistent theme and slide layouts to create a polished, intentional deck.
- Reuse portfolio content (project brief, research, proposal, chart) rather than rewriting from scratch.
- Insert images and charts onto slides whilst keeping text concise and readable from a distance.
- Add speaker notes and practise pacing using Presenter View or slideshow mode.

BEFORE THE BELL

- Ensure students have their Digital_Portfolio populated with project brief, research, proposal, and chart from earlier lessons.
- Students need access to PowerPoint for the web or Google Slides and their existing Digital_Portfolio folder with earlier artifacts.
- Students need their Digital_Portfolio folder open and a sample image they can insert on Slide 4 (any image works for the demo: a screenshot of their earlier chart, or a stock image).
- Students need their earlier portfolio artifacts accessible (proposal, research page, and the spreadsheet containing their chart).

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HOW THE LESSON RUNS

5 min	introduction	Introduction
5 min	content	Key Concepts
18 min	activity	Step-by-step Task: Build the Demo Deck
3 min	content	Common Issues
19 min	activity	Portfolio Build: Your 5-slide Pitch Deck
5 min	content	Reflection
5 min	summary	Lesson Summary

TEACHING MOVES

- Model the Hook-What-Why-Numbers-Ask structure on the demo deck in real time; narrate your thinking about what stays and what gets cut.
- When students reach the Slide 4 chart insertion, circulate and show at least one student how to copy-paste from a spreadsheet first; screenshot is the fallback if the data doesn't port cleanly.
- Use the Reflection prompts to seed a quick whole-class share (two or three students name their weakest slide aloud) so peer feedback in the next lesson feels grounded.
- Remind students that Presenter View works in Google Slides and desktop PowerPoint (with a separate notes screen), but PowerPoint for the web only shows notes in edit mode.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Text too long on title or bullet: aim for 6-10 words in a title and one line per bullet; if a bullet wraps to three lines, cut or split it.
- Too much content crammed onto one slide: encourage students to ask whether each element (image, text, chart) earns its place in under 30 seconds of speaking time.
- Forgetting to apply a theme: remind students that a theme unifies the look; they do not need to style each slide individually.

DIFFERENTIATION

- Support: For students whose portfolio content is thin, allow them to sketch a brief, research summary, and simple numbers directly into the demo deck first; they can refine it in the real deck.
- Support: If a student struggles with chart insertion, have them screenshot their spreadsheet as a fallback and paste it as an image.
- Extension: Ask students to time their pitch (using speaker notes as a guide) and identify which slide consistently runs long; challenge them to rewrite that slide to fit in 20-25 seconds.