Prezi for Beginners

Pros:

- Prezi has just begun spreading across campuses and many students are still unfamiliar with the web application. Due to Prezi’s novel reputation, people are not as traumatized by the mere thought of a Prezi presentation as they are by the ill-fated PowerPoint performances we have all grown to despise.
- Prezi presentations have the ability to stray from their created paths. Prezi presentations can be non-linear and you can ignore the path you plot entirely by clicking on objects to zoom in on, or change the path for every presentation depending on your audience and time slot. This allows for much more flexibility.
- Prezi’s don’t necessarily need to be presented by a human being like a slide deck does. You can easily embed them into a website or blog, or just direct people toward the presentation on Prezi.com itself. It’s a more dynamic online learning object than a set of slides. The audience can navigate straight to the info that’s most relevant to them.

Cons:

- If used or abused, the zooming and lurching nature of a Prezi can make your audience motion sick. It’s up the presenter to ensure that this does not happen.
- If you don’t have flash on your computer than you should stay acquainted with your old friend, PowerPoint.
- Prezi has a much steeper learning curve than PowerPoint. It’s very difficult to jump right into Prezi and expect to create a phenomenal visual presentation right at the beginning.

Tips:

- Don’t underestimate the beauty of coherence! Placing a handful of objects on a canvas and trying to link them together in a logical order will not make for a good Prezi. Prezi’s are much more effective when you have a planned structure in place that works in a logical and relevant way.
- The top-down, full-presentation view is the best mechanism for delivery. You can zoom out at any time to show your whole presentation at once. Being able to zoom out will show your audience exactly where you are in the presentation (unlike PowerPoint, where you have to check your audiences pulse every 20 minutes).
- Be a responsible driver! Pace your Prezi sensibly, rather than whizzing from point to point every few seconds. It also helps to position your materials sympathetically rather than randomly. Also, remember that just because Prezi can rotate and spin around doesn’t mean you should take advantage of that ability. Your audience comes first. Don’t get them motion sick.
- Choose your visual theme early. Prezi isn’t like PowerPoint where every slide can be different – you choose your theme (fonts, colors and shapes) and stick to it. It’s best to do this at the start, in case changing the fonts later ruins your perfectly positioned pieces of text, for example.