“My presentation lacks power and it has no point. I assumed the software would take care of that!”
You need a take-home message, a concise point with content.
Nuclear power is safe, clean, and economical.

I’m going to talk about nuclear power.
You need an expanded, three or four sentence version of your take-home message. This expanded paragraph includes further explanation or the reasons that support your message. The paragraph version of your message is your introduction and your conclusion.

Note that this paragraph is not a paragraph version of the previous point – it has a different point.
Nuclear power can meet much of our electricity needs. Nuclear plants are safer and cleaner than even “clean” natural gas plants. Nuclear power costs about the same as fossil fuel-generated electricity. The experience of France shows that nuclear power works.
Topic-sentence outline:

Each paragraph should have a topic sentence, a sentence that says the point on the paragraph. The topic sentence should usually be the first sentence.

A topic sentence outline is an ordered list of topic sentences. Each topic sentence corresponds to one paragraph.
Nuclear power can meet 2/3 of our electricity needs

- 100 reactors create 20% of our electricity (300 reactors could create 60% of our electricity).
- nuclear power is good for meeting base load.
- load-shifting can increase the effectiveness of nuclear power.
- other countries get much of their electricity from nuclear power.
- with reprocessing, Yucca Mountain could hold 2000 years of waste.

Nuclear power is not too expensive

- higher power-plant construction costs are offset by lower fuel costs.
- long-term nuclear power costs about the same as coal.
- consistent design makes nuclear power economic, as in France.

Nuclear power is safe enough

- nuclear power is safer than coal.
- nuclear kills 6 per year; coal kills 37,000 per year.
- nuclear accidents don’t kill too many people, less than 100 total.
- leakage from Yucca Mountain is expected to be insignificant.
- nuclear fuel can’t be used for nuclear bombs.
One-page paper:

Introduction = 3-4 sentence version; has the point and mentions the reasons why.

Optional second paragraph that explains the importance of the point.

Two or three paragraphs, each giving one reason why. The paragraphs each have a single point that is summed-up by the topic sentence, preferably the first sentence.

Conclusion=3-4 sentence version; similar to introduction but with a little more depth but no new material.
Nuclear power costs about the same as fossil fuel-generated electricity. Nuclear power plants have very low fuel costs. Building plants to a common design creates efficiencies that make nuclear power affordable.

America will soon be building more power plants. Many American power plants were built in the 1960’s, are reaching the end of their expected useful life and will need to be replaced. Continued reliable electric power is necessary for both our economy and our safety.

Higher nuclear plant construction costs are offset by lower fuel costs. DOE data shows that it costs 75% more to build a nuclear plant than a similar capacity coal plant. But nuclear plants use only 14 pounds of fuel per year, while coal plants use 17 million tons of fuel per year. The cost of fuel for a coal plant is about half of the cost of coal-generated electricity, while the cost of fuel for a nuclear plant is negligible.

Existing American nuclear plants were each built to a different design. This was costly as it increased both design and safety costs. In France all nuclear plants are built to the same design. Not only is the design and verification cheaper, but workers trained on one plant can easily move to another. American use of consistent design would make nuclear power economic.

Long-term nuclear power costs are competitive with coal. The low fuel costs offset the higher construction costs in less time that the expected lifetime of the plant. Building plants to a common design creates efficiencies that make nuclear power affordable.
Presentation Slides:

Introduction slide has either 1 sentence or 3-4 sentence version of the point and your name.

Additional “data” or “support” slides each have a single point. These slides often show data in the form of a graph or figure.

Conclusion=3-4 sentence version; similar to introduction but with a little more depth but no new material.
Nuclear Power

Nuclear Power is safe, clean and can provide 2/3 of our electricity at reasonable cost.

Alfred P. Einstein
Nuclear Power

- Safe
- Clean
- Cheap
- Chernobyl
Nuclear power is safe enough

Nuclear kills 6 per year, mostly in the uranium processing industry.

Coal power kills between 14,000 and 37,000 per year, mostly children and elderly, though respiratory ailments.

The TMI accident caused an estimated 0.5 additional cancers.

The Chernobyl accident killed:
- 31 fighting the fires,
- 16 others from radiation,
- 9 children from thyroid cancer.

The Chernobyl accident is thought to have caused an additional 2000-4000 cancers, but finding even this many has been difficult.

The Rasmussen report concluded that the likelihood of deaths from more nuclear accidents is smaller than many other common risks.

No energy production is completely safe, but the hazards of nuclear power are small compared to the dangers from other sources.
Nuclear power is safe enough

14,000-37,000 per year from respiratory ailments.

Less than 2000 killed by cancers from TMI & Chernobyl

Less than 100 killed by TMI & Chernobyl accidents

No energy production is completely safe, but the risks of nuclear power are small compared to the yearly toll of coal-fired plants.
Yucca Mountain is a safe disposal area

80,000 tons of nuclear waste will be buried under Yucca Mountain in Nevada. The used fuel will be buried 1200 feet deep. Studies have shown that if the waste underwent even the average erosion at that depth, the leakage of nuclear waste would be insignificant. Yucca Mountain was chosen for its geological stability and low humidity, and the leakage rate should be lower than this average.
Nuclear Power Conclusion

The economic and environmental costs of nuclear power compare favorably with fossil fuels.

- Nuclear plants emit less radiation than even “clean” natural gas plants.
- Nuclear power costs about the same as fossil fuel-generated electricity.
- The experience of France shows that nuclear power works.
* One sentence **take-home-message** with content, not promises.

* 3-4 sentence version that forms introduction and conclusion.

* Topic Sentence outline organizes supporting material as points, each to match a paragraph or slide.

* One page paper, with introduction and conclusion.

* Presentation slides, each slide having a single point.