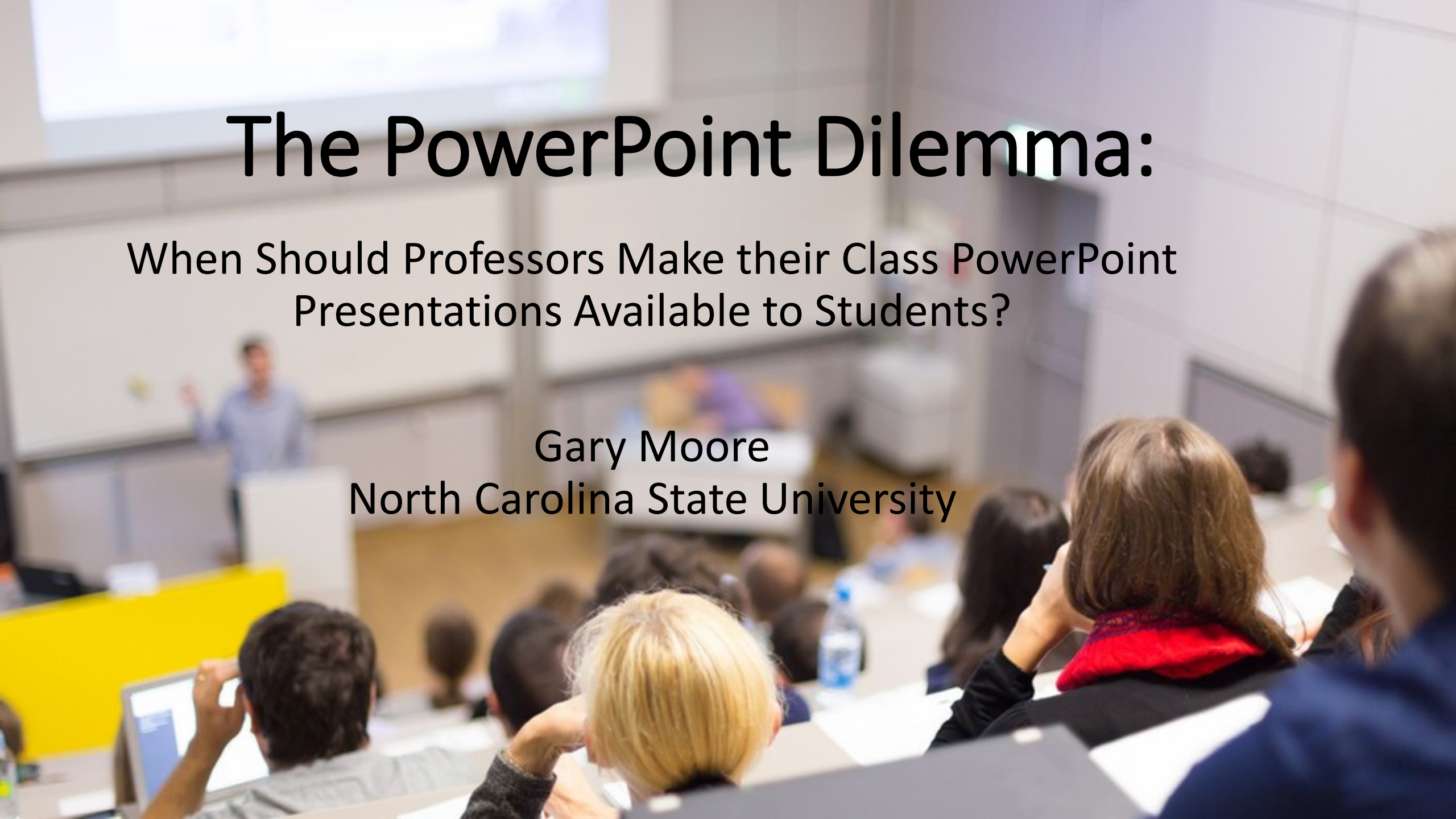
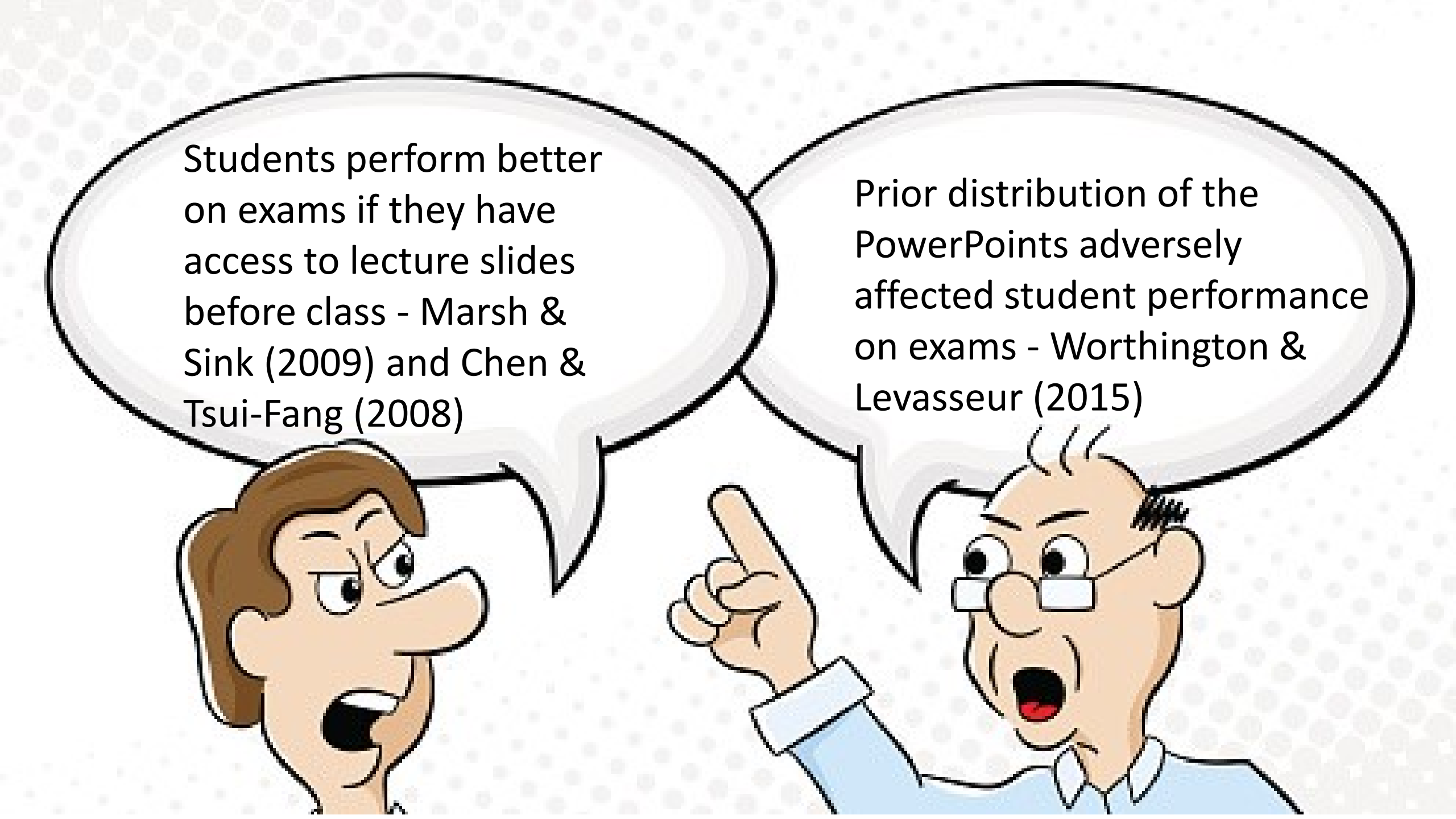


The PowerPoint Dilemma:

When Should Professors Make their Class PowerPoint Presentations Available to Students?

Gary Moore
North Carolina State University



A cartoon illustration featuring two characters. On the left, a woman with brown hair and a surprised expression has a large speech bubble above her. On the right, a man with glasses and a blue shirt, also with a surprised expression, has a large speech bubble above him and is pointing upwards with his right hand. The background is a light gray with a pattern of small white dots.

Students perform better on exams if they have access to lecture slides before class - Marsh & Sink (2009) and Chen & Tsui-Fang (2008)

Prior distribution of the PowerPoints adversely affected student performance on exams - Worthington & Levasseur (2015)

Oh my! I thought there was no difference in student learning based upon when PowerPoint presentations are made available to students - Babb & Ross (2009) and Nouri & Shahid (2008)

Students perform better on exams if they have access to lecture slides before class - Marsh & Sink (2009) and Chen & Tsui-Fang (2008)



So what is a
professor to
do?

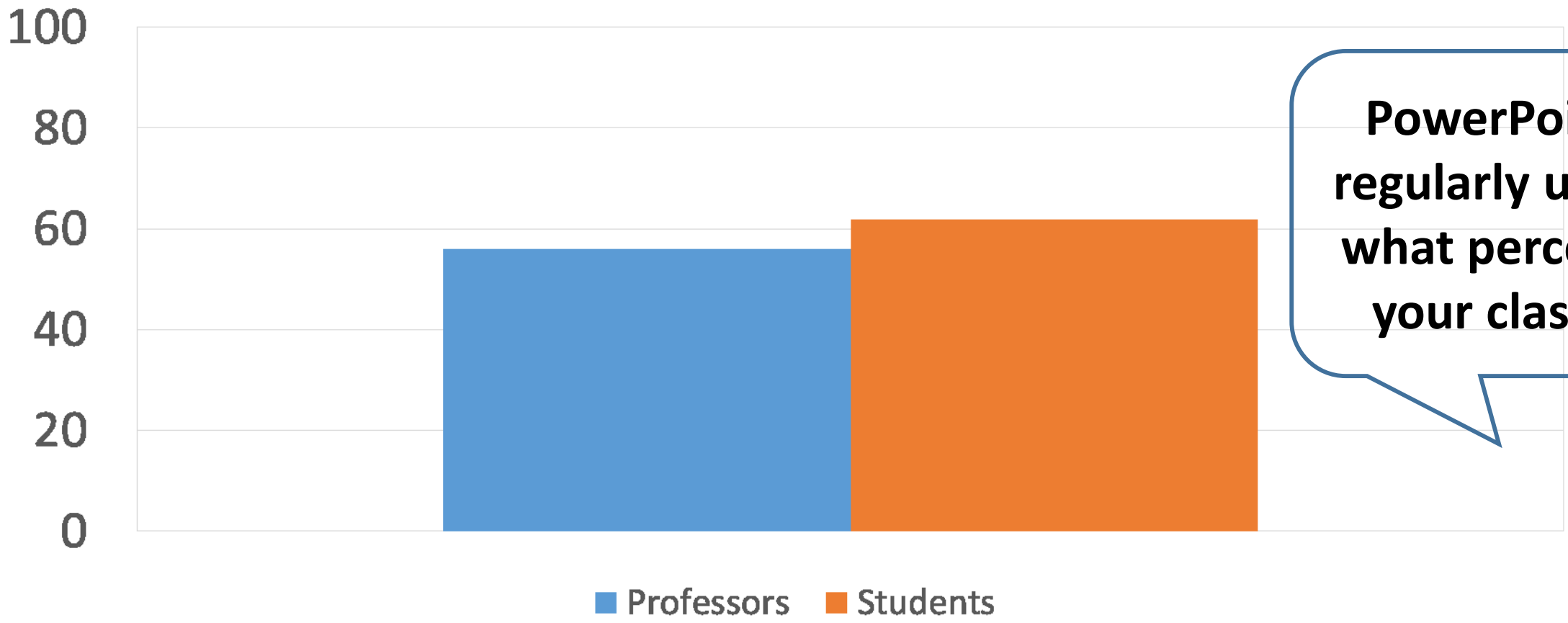


Hey! Why don't you do some research! Ask students and professors for their views about when to distribute PowerPoints!

So:

- **A random sample of undergraduate agricultural students at North Carolina State University were surveyed N=109**
- **University Ag Ed professors from across the country were asked the same questions N=61**

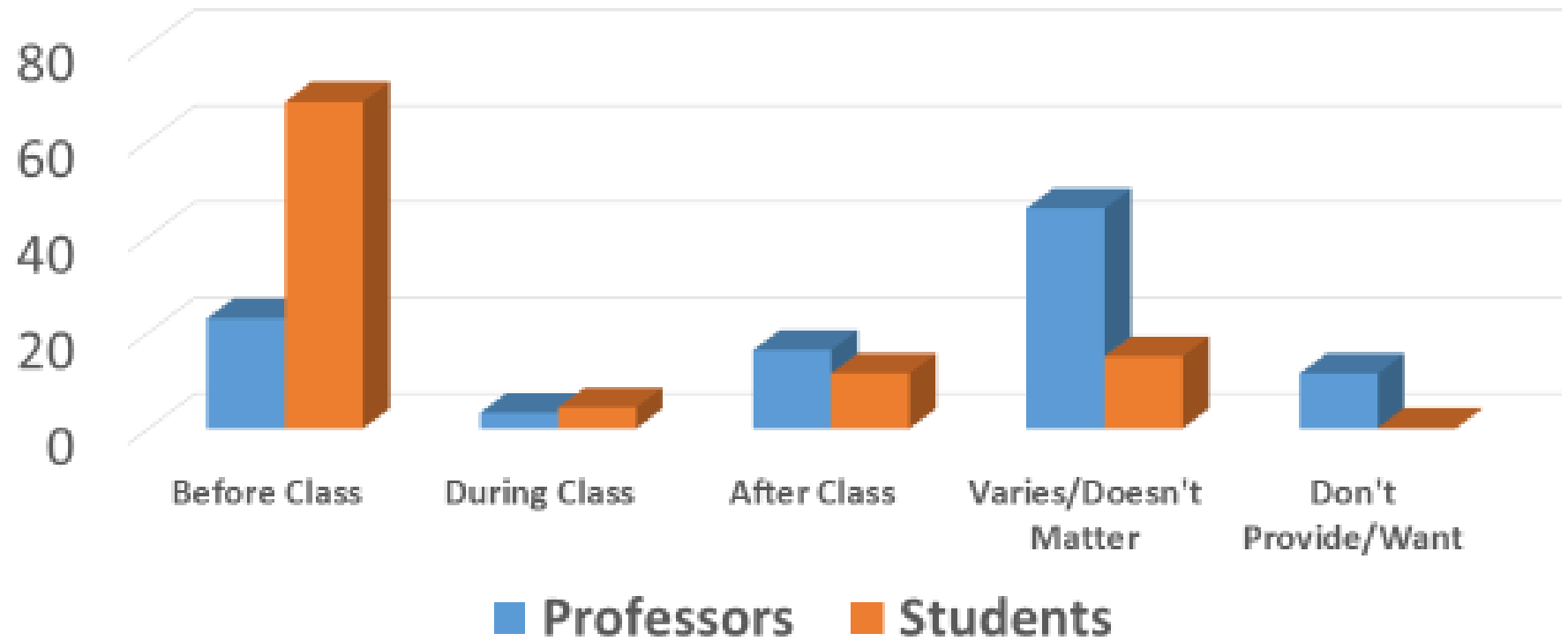




PowerPoint is regularly used in what percent of your classes?



When Professors Make Their PowerPoint Presentations Available/ When Students Want Them



A Comparison of Students & Professors

Statement	Students	Professors
By having the PowerPoint in advance students can focus more on what the teacher is saying instead of taking notes.	6.17	4.69
Learning is improved when students have PowerPoint presentations prior to the class	6.11	4.00

Rating Scale: 7 Strongly Agree, 4 Neither Agree or Disagree, 1 Strongly Disagree

Comparisons continue...

Statement	Students	Professors
Note taking is improved if PowerPoint presentations are made available in advance because students can take notes on the PowerPoint document.	6.00	4.38
Receiving the PowerPoint before the class helps students to focus on what is important during the actual class.	5.28	4.43

Comparisons continue...

Statement	Students	Professors
Getting the PowerPoint presentation after the class helps reinforce what students learn in class.	5.57	4.55
Students are more likely to skip class if they have the PowerPoint presentation before class.	4.30	4.33

Comparisons continue...

Statement	Students	Professors
Students may not pay close attention in class if they already have the PowerPoint presentation.	3.79	4.09
Students pay better attention in classes where the PowerPoint is not available in advance.	3.36	4.17

Comparisons continue...


Statement	Students	Professors
Students take more complete notes in class if they do not have the PowerPoint in advance	3.07	4.05
Whether or not students get PowerPoint presentations before or after class makes no difference in student learning.	2.69	3.81

It allows me to review the material prior to class time and while I may not understand all of the large concepts yet it allows me to have previously seen the information to help it stick better.



Many teachers go too fast to right (sic) down everything on the powerpoints AND the additional information they say.



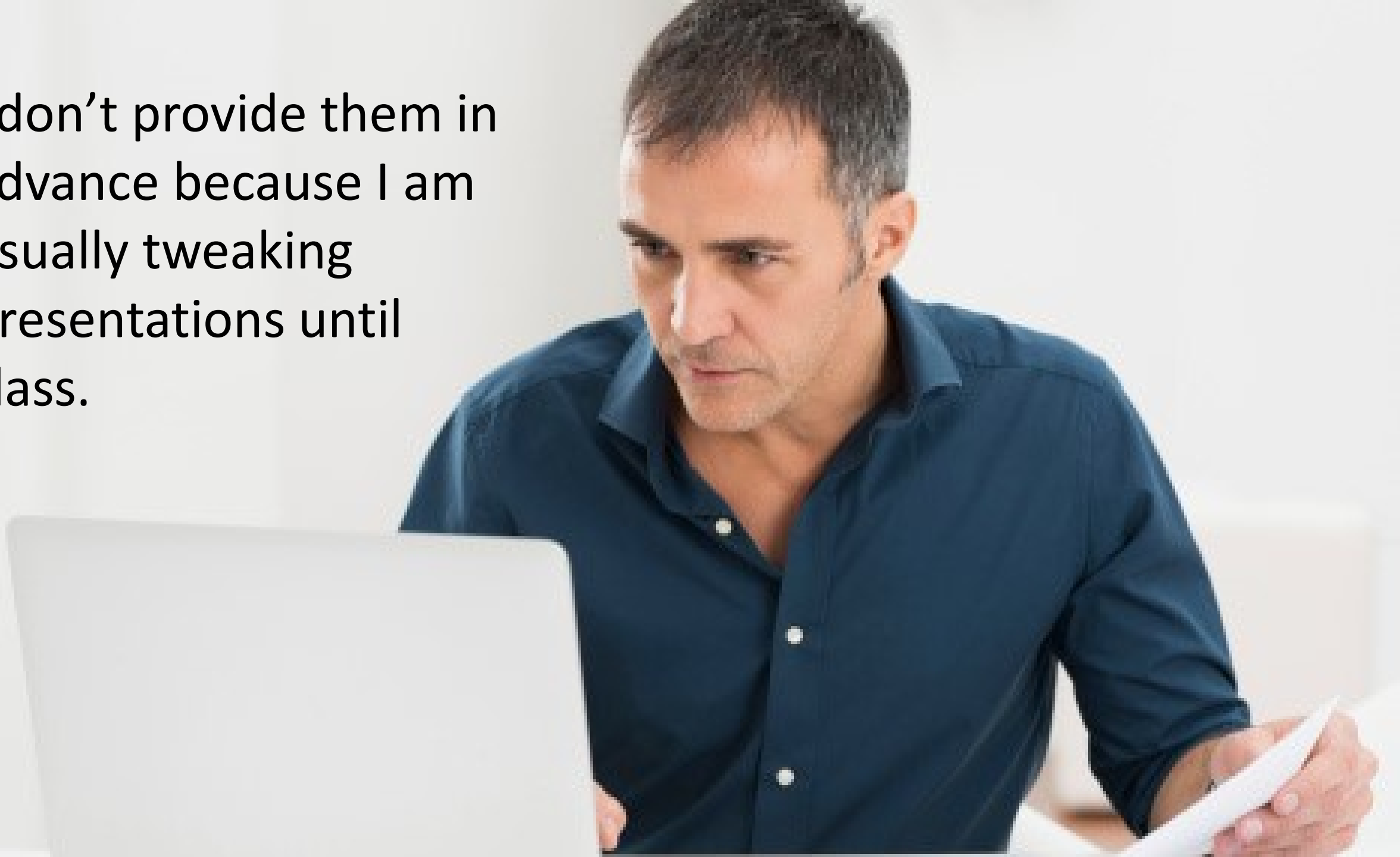
A man with glasses and a blue button-down shirt is speaking in a classroom. He has his hands clasped in front of him. The background is a green chalkboard with some faint writing. In the foreground, the backs of two students' heads are visible.

I'd rather they know the material, so we can move to comprehension / application / synthesis. That is why I provide the PowerPoint in advance.

My slides will have a few points but I enhance/elaborate on the points with what I say. By providing the slides ahead of time, the students shift their focus to what is said and are typically more willing to discuss.



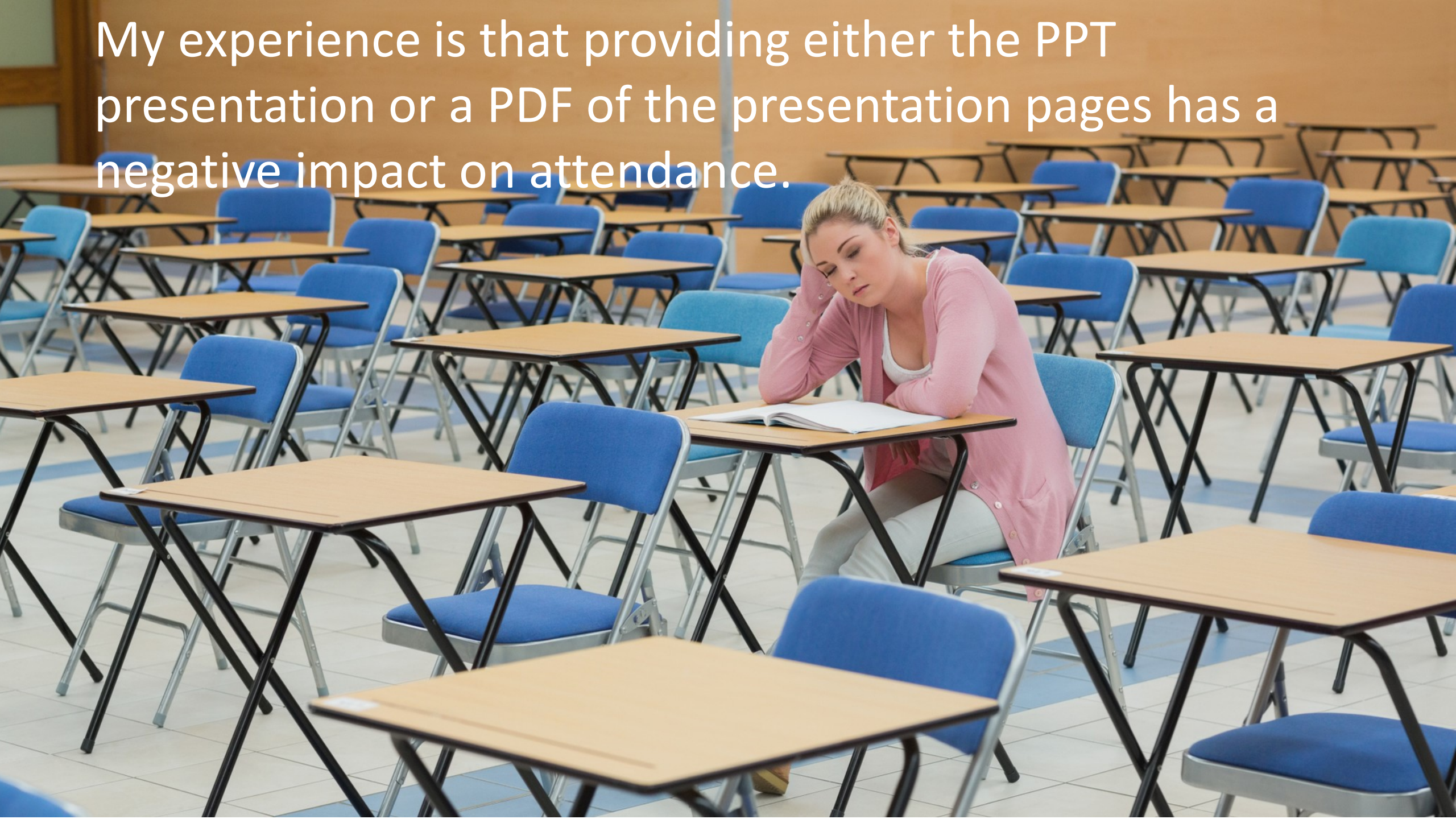
I don't provide them in advance because I am usually tweaking presentations until class.



I don't provide PowerPoints in advance to encourage students to attend class and to avoid revealing answers to questions posed during the lecture.



My experience is that providing either the PPT presentation or a PDF of the presentation pages has a negative impact on attendance.





There's ample research that taking notes aides memory. If they know they'll get the full slides at one point, they don't take notes as well, and that's an important skill to have. So I don't provide students with the slides.

Conclusions and Recommendation

- **The students clearly want the PowerPoint presentation in advance.**
 - **The students don't believe they are likely to skip class or pay less attention in class.**
 - **They believe it will help them focus on what is important and be able to take better notes.**
- **The professors are not so sure; however they should consider making their PowerPoint presentations available to their students in advance of teaching the class.**

