Tips related to the content of your presentation

Your presentation should address the three major components that comprise most faculty applications:

Research

Explicitly state your research vision; i.e., what you hope to accomplish as an independent researcher.
- Include a “high-level” question (e.g., how does polymer self-assembly affect macroscopic properties?)
- Relate your high-level question to the specific question that you will address (e.g., how do chemical changes to polymer X affect its morphology when mixed with polymer Y?)
- Explain why you are the best candidate to answer these questions that you’ve asked.
- Define the impact of your work (broadly and within your field.)

Teaching

Highlight your past experience and current interests in teaching.
- Emphasize classes you taught where you experimented with pedagogical techniques or used technology to facilitate learning (e.g., use of clickers for immediate feedback.)
- Mention any training that you’ve taken that is relevant to teaching.

Outreach/mentorship/efforts related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

Describe how you’d integrate into a culture that supports students, faculty, and staff who have various backgrounds and life experiences.
- Articulate your involvement in previous and current outreach/DEI efforts.
- If you have limited experience in these areas, express aspects of your own background that motivate you to support activities related to DEI.
- If you have limited experience teaching at your university, identify outreach and mentorship activities that allowed you to practice pedagogy.

Tips related to your presentation style/aesthetics

- Make your message clear and repeat it consistently.
  - I.e., what you’ll do as a faculty member; why you’re the best fit for your goals.
- Include a “hook” that captures attention.
  - Your “high-level” question could be an effective way to engage your audience immediately.
- Use effective graphics.
  - Reference all graphics/images while speaking so your audience knows why it was included.
  - Use images instead of “walls of text” (e.g., use stock photos to communicate aspects related to teaching.)
- Tailor to your “audience”.
  - Specific subfields or universities you are interested in may have expectations related to style and composition, and you should follow these strictly.

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