

Comfortable Viewing Distance for Text on Presentation Visuals

16:9 screens (widescreen TVs, monitors & projectors)

Assumptions:

- Visual acuity of 20/40 (about the same that is used for highway road signs)
- Projected image fills the screen
- Screen and image have a 16:9 width to height ratio (the standard ratio for most widescreen TVs, monitors & projectors)

How to use the table:

- Locate the row that corresponds to the diagonal measurement of the screen you are using (the typical way to measure these screens)
- Locate the column corresponding to the smallest font used for text on your slides
- The intersection of the row and column is the maximum distance from the screen that an audience member should be seated in order to be able to easily read the text
- For example, if you are using a 32 inch TV and have 28 point text on your slides, the farthest that someone should be is 18 feet from the screen

Font size (in points)

		18	24	28	32	36	40	44
Diagonal screen size (in inches)	15	5	7	8	9	10	11	12
	19	7	9	11	12	13	14	16
	22	8	11	12	14	15	17	18
	27	9	13	15	17	19	21	22
	32	11	15	18	20	22	24	27
	36	12	17	20	22	25	27	30
	42	15	20	23	26	29	32	35
	47	16	23	26	29	32	36	39
	52	18	25	29	32	36	40	43
	60	21	29	33	37	41	46	50
	72	25	35	40	45	50	55	60
	80	28	39	44	50	55	61	66