

Share Your Research : Course Syllabus

Course Goals and Mission Statement

Giving a research talk (say, at a conference, to your department or in your research group meeting) is a really important part of a scientist's career. But, putting together and delivering a talk can be a nerve-wracking struggle. Maybe you have little to no experience giving research talks. Or maybe you've been doing it for a while, but feel like there is room for improvement. Either way, this course is for you!

Share Your Research is a FREE self-paced course that will guide you through the steps of creating and delivering a good research talk.

By the end of this course, you will have:

- A detailed outline for your research talk.
- Techniques and strategies for delivering an engaging and effective talk.
- Approaches for finding and refining your preferred speaking style.
- Strategies for practicing and receiving feedback on your talk.

A course for anyone who needs to give research talks

We designed this course for anyone who will be giving research-based scientific talks in the future. This list includes (but is not limited) to advanced undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, as well as early-career or well-established researchers who are interested in learning more about giving a good scientific talk. While most of our instructors have a background in the life sciences, the lessons included in the course are broadly applicable to other disciplines.

Includes 4 modules and a plan for your research talk

- **Module 1, FRAMING YOUR TALK:** This module introduces you to a framework to help you define the foundations of an effective talk: who is the audience, what are your goals, and what is your core message. This module also offers advice to help you discover your speaking style.
- **Module 2, START BUILDING YOUR TALK:** This module presents strategies to help you outline and structure your talk and engage your audience. This module will also get you started with defining the content of the body of your talk.

- **Module 3, ROUNDING OUT YOUR TALK:** In this module, you will continue working on the structure and content of your talk, focusing on the introduction and ending. The module also discusses more strategies for audience engagement and talk titles.
- **Module 4, GIVING YOUR TALK:** This module provides tips and best practices to deliver an effective talk: from strategies for practicing and receiving feedback, to lessening the nerves and dealing with the Q&A.
- **MY TALK PLAN:** As you work through the course, you will be prompted to apply what you're learning to your own presentation by completing a series of assessments. The responses to these exercises will be captured in a downloadable document called "My Talk Plan", which is essentially an outline for your research talk. It is organized so that relevant sections may be easily applied to the creation and delivery of future talks.

Built with your schedule in mind

We know you have lots of things to do, so we designed this 5-week course to take 1.5 to 3 hours per week. There are an average of 7 videos per module; each video is 2 to 6 minutes in length.

Requirements

There are no prerequisites to take this course.

Format

The course is composed of videos, text, forum discussion questions, and open response assessments. The majority of the instructional materials are contained within the videos and text.

This course is an on-demand, self-paced course. This means that, as soon as you enroll, all course content is available to you and may be consumed at your own pace. For your reference, it took students 5 weeks to complete the whole course in a hosted, synchronized format. We estimate you will spend 1.5 to 3 hours on the course per week. This includes time spent watching videos, reading text, doing assessments, and engaging in the forum.

"My Talk Plan" (Assessments)

As you go through the modules, you will be prompted to apply what you're learning to your own research presentation through a series of self-reflective exercises. The goal of these exercises

is to probe your thinking as you design the outline of a talk about your own research. Your responses from these exercises will be accessible through a printable document titled "My Talk Plan."

Grading

This is a pass/fail course, and your grade will be based solely on the completion of the open response assessments. You will receive an iBiology Courses Certificate if you complete at least 50% of the assessments. Assessment fields are defined as any text input box that appears under the "Assessment" heading within the course. Each required assessment is numbered (e.g., "Q1," "Q2,") to help you keep track as you take the course. Each assessment field has equal weight so there will be no difference in penalty for assessment fields you leave incomplete. That being said, we highly recommend that you endeavor to complete as many assessment fields as possible in order to get the most out of the course.

If you have further questions regarding our grading policy or completion of the course, please feel free to contact us at courses@ibiology.org.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Module 1, FRAMING YOUR TALK: This module introduces you to a framework to help you define the foundations of an effective talk: who is the audience, what are your goals and what is your core message. This module will also offer advice to help you discover your speaking style. We will discuss:

- What makes a good scientific talk
- What needs to be done before you start making your slides
- The importance of knowing your audience, goals, and message (aka the framework for a good talk)
- Tips and strategies for establishing your own personal speaking/presenting style

Week 2

Module 2, START BUILDING YOUR TALK: This module presents key concepts to help you outline and structure your talk and strategies to help you engage your audience. This module will also get you started with defining the content of the body of your talk. We will discuss:

- The difference between scientific talks and papers
- How to turn your research into a story that will keep your audience interested and engaged

- How to translate your framework into effective slides
- How to choose the data that you will include in the body of the talk and how to present that data in an understandable and engaging manner

Week 3

Module 3, ROUNDING OUT YOUR TALK: In this module, you will continue working on the structure and content of your talk, focusing on the introduction and ending. The module also discusses strategies for audience engagement and talk titles. We will discuss:

- How to determine what should be covered in the introduction of your talk
- How to “hook” the audience
- How to convey the importance of your research so that the audience understands the impact and implications of your research
- How to end your talk effectively, leaving your audience interested yet satisfied
- How to develop an engaging title for your talk that will attract an audience

Week 4

Module 4, GIVING YOUR TALK: This module provides tips and best practices to deliver an effective talk: from strategies for practicing and receiving feedback, to lessening the nerves and dealing with the Q&A. We will discuss:

- How to use clear and concise language to convey your message
- Strategies for practicing that will help you fully prepare for your talk
- Preparing for your talk environment as well as the image you would like to present during the talk
- Strategies to reduce public speaking nerves
- How to effectively navigate the question and answer session at the end of your talk

Week 5

Review and make changes to “My Talk Plan,” the document which contains your responses to all the assessments from the course. Also, remember to get feedback from peers and colleagues.