

CONFERENCE TRAINING

KEYWORD

Presentation skills
Discussion skills
Thoughtful feedback



DESCRIPTION

An active presentation exercise with video taping and peer feedback

WHY IS IT INTERESTING?

Students practice assessing a scientific paper and giving a talk on it, discuss with their peers and obtain rich feedback.

HOW TO DO IT?



1. Give intro, assign papers



2. Students prepare talk



3. Students give talk, are taped



4. Students get feedback, video

Difficulty to set up



Investment time before session



Investment time post session



Suitable for managing large groups



Level of autonomy of learners



FIRST STEPS

Assemble a diversity of scientific papers on the topic of the class, a video camera and a microphone. Prepare a thorough introduction to the topic and the setting. Prepare a name tag for each student for proper addressing during discussion.

OUR ADVICE

Make sure (with examples) how thoughtful feedback is given, what a good talk looks like. Be supportive throughout.

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EXAMPLES OF USAGE



A typical student learns about topic, journals, authors, publishing etc. for 3 weeks, then picks a week, gets a paper, prepares slides within 14 days, will hear peers presenting, discuss, at some time be the presenter, give/get feedback.

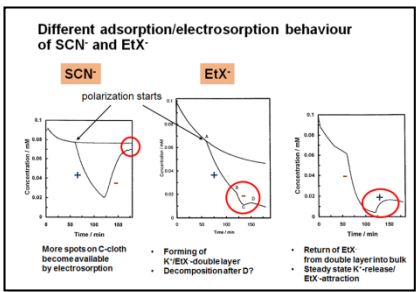
Anal. Chem 2005, 73, 1161-1169

Adsorption and Electro sorption of Ethyl Xanthate and Thiocyanate Anions at High-Area Carbon-Cloth Electrodes Studied by in Situ UV Spectroscopy: Development of Procedures for Wastewater Purification

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Adsorption and electro sorption behavior of ethyl xanthate (EX⁻) and thiocyanate (SCN⁻) anions, individually and when they are together in a solution, were studied at high-area carbon cloth electrodes by in situ UV spectroscopy in relation to development of methodologies for purification of industrial wastewaters. The employment of straightforward, yet demonstrably modified, spectrophotoelectric techniques of kinetics and scanning kinetics is described. Adsorption isotherms of EX⁻ and SCN⁻ were also determined. The effect of galvanic interaction on the adsorption of EX⁻ and SCN⁻ was reported by Jancarik et al. [1998]. The rate of EX⁻ decomposition and formation of an intermediate compound, ethyl perchlorate, was measured as a function of sulfate concentration, temperature, and purging gas. An ion exchange study was carried out by Duan et al. [2000]. The electro sorption of sodium ethyl xanthate (NaEX) adsorbed on activated carbon by Tu, ET al.



What I like about your slides	Where the slides could be optimized	What I liked about your talk and discussion	What could be optimized about talk and discussion
clear and clear slides	Try avoiding the green and red colors, choose more soft colors	good answering of question (did to have you give a short feedback of the paper at the end?)	Nothing I noticed that really needed improvement!
Comprehensive slide design		good explanation of results presented confidently	speak a bit louder
nice layout		loud + clear speaking, questions answered confidently	sometimes a little fast
readable + nicely designed tables; good use of animations	Shorter Sentences	Good body language and clear speech	Beating around the bush should be avoided
They are colourful and informative	some pictures a bit small		talk a bit slower
nice amount of information on slides		the story behind and the story line	
good overview on slides, important information is highlighted, use of color and bold letters, not too much content, complexity is added		speaking speed, good structure, important information was emphasized with the voice, straight posture, loud voice, relaxed speaking	speak more deeply and from the belly and less with a pitched voice, pause after an important point to emphasize it, use hands less
well structured		Good explanation	Picture on slide 3 could have been explained in more detail

EXAMPLE AT RWTH



Level: Master studies
Number of students involved: growing from 17 (2011) to 40 (2019)
Required resources: video camera, good microphone, a set of papers
Introduction: Discuss pros and cons of Hirsch indices and impact factors, describe the process of peer-publishing, share ways of searching the literature...
Discussions: The first question comes from the preceding presenter, the second from a randomly picked student. This trains to mentally prepare questions (like session chairs).

May easily be transferred to an online format



WHAT TO BE CAREFUL OF?



Permit students to replace their assigned paper by a similar one they prefer. Discuss papers with flaws to foster critical reading. A final short test for a bonus supports high attendance until the end.