

School of Biomedical Science Honours Program

Effective Communication Workshop 1 (EC1)

WORKSHOP PREPARATION:

Part 1:

Prepare to give a 5-10 minute introduction to your project (detailed outline below). On the day of the workshop you will give this introduction in small, pre-designated groups. Bring notes, papers, diagrams etc. to help you with your arguments. Be aware that you may be speaking with peers who are not familiar with your research area.

Part 2:

Read the sample research proposal (available on blackboard). Then “mark” the research proposal using the criteria sheet (also on blackboard). Bring the completed criteria sheets to the workshop. With each sheet make sure you have circled the achievement levels for each criterion, note down your comments also decide on the mark you would give the research proposal.

Part 3:

Think about some of the presentations you have seen as a student – both good and bad. Make a list of some things that might be characteristic of ‘good’ and ‘bad’ presentations. Look at the criteria sheet for the proposal and see if you can fit these characteristics into the criteria sheet.

WORKSHOP DETAILS:

Part 1 – Introducing your Honours research (~ 45 minutes)

This part of the workshop aims to get you to communicate your project well, to clarify things in your own mind and to help you identify the essential bits of information you might want to use for your written research proposal and your oral presentation.

Each member of the group has 5 minutes to discuss your Honours projects with 4-5 other students from a similar area of study. During this time you should provide information such as:

1. An introduction to your project:
 - Highlight questions that are still unanswered and address the ones you hope to answer. Try to identify the hypothesis you aim to test with your research.
2. The methodology, data analysis and significance of your proposed research:
 - Explain your methodology.
 - Explain how you will analyse your data.
 - Explain the implications of your work and possible future directions.

Group members should ask questions throughout and highlight areas that need to be better explained as well as important factors that may have been missed.

Part 2 – Written Proposal Workshop (~ 90 minutes)

This part of the workshop aims to **help you to think like a marker when preparing your research proposal**. This will help you to better understand what is required for a high Honours mark and what your examiners' feedback means.

In preparation you will mark a sample research proposal (submitted by a previous Biomedical Science Honours student) using the same marking sheets your own examiners will use to mark your proposal.

During the workshop we will discuss what marks you gave the proposal and why and talk about what marks the examiners gave the proposal and why.

- In groups, students will discuss the marks that they gave. Do this based on the criteria.
- Then, as a big group, we will go through and discuss what each group gave and why.
- Finally, each group will present their final mark.
- Then the examiners marks will be revealed and we will discuss these grades.
- Question time!

Part 3 – Oral Proposal Workshop (~ 45 minutes)

This part of the workshop aims to help you identify elements that make for a 'good' or 'bad' proposal. We'll discuss some of the characteristics that contribute to the quality of a presentation. Using the proposal seminar criteria sheets we'll then begin to map out these characteristics, and see how they might relate to the criteria used for assessment. Finally, we'll discuss ways in which you can demonstrate mastery of the individual criteria.