

This student is registered as dyslexic / dyspraxic with UCL Student Disability Services.

Please refer to [Guidance for Academic Staff: Assessment of the work of students with specific learning difficulties – Dyslexia / Dyspraxia](#)

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/disability/info-for-staff/dyslexia-marking-guidelines>

Topic Choice

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I have chosen to do topics which all help improve my skills as a teacher, as I feel this is an area which I have room to improve, and is an important aspect to doing a PhD and an academic career.

The combination of this work should give me the skills needed to plan a lesson, introduce a topic, explain a topic to a non-expert and present the lesson.

Here I will explain why I choose to do each piece of work and what I feel I have gained from it:

Development Plan+CV

I chose to do the development plan as I felt it really allowed me to focus in on one particular skill that I wished to improve, which was my presentation. This skill is vital for teaching/lecturing, as a large amount of any course will have to be conveyed via a presentation and the ability of the presenter to do this well highly affects the knowledge gained by the students. I also felt that this complemented the presentation that I did allowing my progress to be monitored via it.

I feel from doing the development plan I have increased my awareness of ways monitoring my progress and improving my presentation skills, as well as just increasing the amount I think about a presentation before I do it.

Presentation

I chose to do a live presentation instead of a video recording, this is because I feel that in lecturing the ability to talk live to a room full of people is much more important and widely used. The topic I chose was the three-minute thesis, I chose this topic instead of another as I feel that the ability to condense a complex topic and explain it to a room full of non experts in a way they can understand in a short time period is exactly what the introduction to a new topic should be like when lecturing.

From this I feel that I gained some more confidence in presenting to a decent sized audience as well as a lot of experience in condensing down a topic and removing most of its complexity.

Lesson Plan

The lesson plan was an obvious choice for teaching as it's something I have never done before and is vital to any lesson. I chose to write the lesson plan on an introduction to special relativity, though this topic in of its self is not special and was purely chosen because of my physics background. My main aim of the lesson plan was to practice the ability to structure a lesson; therefore I decided to dedicate the entire piece of work to this. This is way the plan is not one that can be read straight out to give a lesson but rather a structure and layout that should be used to build the actual wording of the lesson around.

From this I feel I learned about how to break up the work with in a lesson, plan its ordering, timings and overall content. Also I learned more about

the different ways to teach and methods to use passive and active learning.

Literature Review

I chose the literature review as I feel it fills in the gap left by the other topics, namely what is the worded content of the lesson. I wrote the review on "What Caused the Flash Crash", which can be seen as an introduction in a way to my research area. I chose this topic as I felt that it complemented my presentation here however instead of talking about my work I look at done before and why this topic is interesting to look at, because there is a lack of agreement on it. I feel that a research review is a good base for a special lecture looking at a currently researched topic, explaining the different opinions and work on the topic.

From this I feel that I have improved my ability to give background to a topic exploring the different work done on it.