Science Communication Workshop 4\_16\_21

Respect: respect others as fellow humans (interestingly, he said not views and perspectives, but I see them as necessary parts to respect to have a flow of conversation)

Trust: reliable feeling in the person you are conversing with

Confidence: confidence in transmission of communication (and the confidence to pull out more information by pointing out the things you don’t know)

The way that he “asks” questions is interesting: I feel like I do the same thing sometimes (call out people’s words and thoughts and rephrase wording in another way); BUT I think most people see it as semi-condescending: how do you make it sound less condescending? Is there a way of speaking that I get wrong sometimes?

* A way to make it not feel like superiority/patronizing

How do you change the way that you’re thinking so that you’re not limited and that you’re interested and curious?

Why do you find interest in science communication? What is the point? Important to show that the person communicating with you has a reason for communication with you

Convey the impact of a discovery!

Think about what we want, why we want to, how we want to do it?

* Deliberately changing pitch and using words; how satisfying it is to be able to share what you want to share
  + Getting confident in your ability to do so is essential
  + Body language is important
* We need profound understanding of what we’re saying and why we’re saying it
  + I feel like a lot of the stuff he is saying is to influence other people, but is that true?

Why do people like to chat about all of these things?

* Science Fridays NPR
* Expanding the circle of the audience? The people who can understand so that it’s a conversation rather than a talking at
  + Not trying to make other people scientists, but

To put it in words: I think it is important to understand what other people think and that they WANT to understand what you think. If not, then how to get them to care is an entirely different thing. It’s important for a lot of people, but I think it’s more fundamental.

The first purpose of a conversation is to have a second conversation:

* If you don’t succeed in the first, then another won’t be had: important to listen

The convince conversation:

* How to get people interested in a conversation or subject rather than just chatting with them through your thoughts and opinions
* A lot of people feel like they have enough information and don’t feel the need to look into it more
  + Lack of curiosity
* We are more curious and skeptical about subjects
* But some people also KNOW the facts and knowledge
  + Why do people understand it differently?
* Point of view is everything:
  + How do we change/convince/influence/view/understand/find/search for a way to communicate point of views?
    - EMPATHY

Turn in by 4\_16\_2021:

Write a page on what science is

And another page on what is communication

Make an oral presentation about a topic that I choose, but only 3 minutes (send the topic to him)

Science Communication Workshop 4\_30\_21

Is there an implicit bias in thinking of natural science instead of social science? Despite the fact that social science is relating to and with people and something we do to chat with people?

Is science about how things work? Or why things work?

Wanting to listen to what people are saying is an important aspect of communication

Storytelling is a good approach to engage people’s interests

JOY! Show some joy and emotion about your talks. Confidence and emotion help people stay engaged!

Jargon: using a word that it isn’t clear why you are using

Making the presentation suitable for an audience is important

Clarity of purpose: know what you’re trying to do; how can you engage in a conversation; slow down and keep the person at the same pace of understanding

Sometimes you just can’t know if people understand what you’re saying, doing, feeling, etc. And that’s okay. It’s about having the conversation and continuing it either with them, or in their minds.

We are custodians of knowledge

It’s personal, we want people to understand us. How do you teach someone to be skeptical? Be ready to make new mistakes. Talk to Bassam about this concept at some point. Crucial to be alive, to feel, not be robotic.

Podcast talk for communication workshop

As scientists and researchers, we are asked to question how and why the world works the way it does. We are asked to be critical, but also to be sure to take into account many factors and variables that accompany our data and our findings. A couple of years ago I asked myself how I could reapply these skills in the real world, focusing on aspects of our world that aren’t so niche and that are a bit easier to understand without a lot of complex jargon. I did a lot of reflecting after my preliminary exam, and realized how passionate I can be about my work while also being able to balance and maintain a livelihood outside of it. These are things I had never expected to be doing as a child, or in high school, or even in undergrad. I began to grasp the fact that I was very fortunate with the guidance I received, and that I wouldn’t be here today without it. But what about people who don’t have similar guidance? Are other people’s lives boring and lacking in passion? How do their stories play out?

That’s what I decided to focus my podcast Another 40 Hours on: How do people prioritize their passions in their careers and maintain work/life balance outside of them? The skills I’ve learned in graduate school to ask questions about topics I don’t know has aided me in understanding what it takes to interview people. Instead of asking myself or peers questions about topics in science, I am instead asking questions about what people don’t know about the paths into different careers and into adulthood. Instead of thinking about the nitty gritty details of membrane protein energetics, I am instead asking about the minute details of a professional chef’s dining experience at different restaurants and how different it is to be a black person in Japan vs in the US. By creating a podcasting platform, I am able to give voices to ordinary people and to demonstrate how unique experiences shape people. Because as scientists I don’t think our strongest talent is answering questions. I think the reason why scientists are able to change the world is because we know what we don’t know, and we properly process and word appropriate questions for those topics.

The most rewarding thing about podcasting has been how I am able to draw out these deep and thoughtful conversations from my guests, posing them questions that they rarely get to chat about in a vulnerable space. As scientists and researchers, we have the unique ability to challenge perspectives but also to learn and understand what people are thinking. My podcast gives people that platform to do so, and to ensure that their stories and perspectives can be heard not just by friends or colleagues, but by people all around the world.