

Communicating Science

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Course Description: By the end of this class you should be comfortable discussing science with broad audiences, from elementary school students to heads of state. Each week we will give an introduction to the communication tools and recommendations needed to successfully convey scientific information—and complexity—with the target audience.

Course Schedule:

Week	Topic
1	Social Responsibility
2	Basics of Public Speaking
3	Communicating Science to Grade-school Students
4	Communicating Science to College/Grad School Students
5	Communicating Science to Grant Reviewers
6	Communicating Science to Politicians
7	Communicating Science to Someone Interested in Your Field: The Review Paper
8	Communicating Science to the Public
9	Presenting Your Science to the Class

Assignments:

- **Week 2:** Record yourself giving a speech and take note of your bad habits.
- **Week 3:** Write a short summary of an interesting article you read this week that can be understood by a grade schooler. You will be graded by a grade school student on clarity and how well they can understand your summary.
- **Week 4:** Before class, write a list of the qualities you've appreciated the most in your professors that you can reference when you teach.
- **Week 5:** Before class, re-read a review paper that really stood out at you as well written and helpful. Make a list of the qualities that made it better than other review papers you've read.
- **Week 7:** Write an NIH grant-style, one-aim abstract for a research proposal. The experiments proposed should be something new that you're not currently planning.
- **Week 9:** Give a two-minute “elevator speech” about your research to the class that can be understood by the public. Focus on the following:
 - Lay-friendliness (jargon!)
 - Clarity
 - Technical accuracy (not sacrificing it for lay-friendliness)
 - Was it interesting and engaging?
 - Smoothness of delivery
 - Audience rapport and thinking on your feet
 - Q&A