

LANG3021 Science Communication in English (Math)

Course Content

Phase 1. Story-telling for Science communication

Students will understand the importance of science communication and the role of story-telling therein, develop and apply appropriate strategies to make their own communication of science (at professional levels) interesting as well as accessible to lay audience. Students develop such skills and strategies by analysing popular science articles and presentations that target the general public, and by practising and integrating feedback in and outside of classroom.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Identify good features of engaging pop science articles/videos/blogs
- Apply storytelling techniques in science communication
- Craft clear and engaging explanations
- Use anchor texts with references to create emphasis in written communication

Phase 2. Communicating controversy in mathematics

Students will explore public attitudes to controversies in mathematics and how such controversies are presented in public speaking. Students will develop the skills to critically read and speak about scientific controversies to lay audiences in an interesting and engaging way, also by applying the skillset they pick up from **Phase 1**.

Key Learning Objectives:

- Analyse and explain issues/controversies about Mathematics
- Apply pop science style and language to oral communication genres
- Integrate persuasive strategies to increase audience and content engagement

Course Pedagogy

The course adopts a genre-based approach, using genres specific to conveying mathematical ideas to the public. To help students firmly grasp genre knowledge, styles, and language use, the course uses learning portfolio and provides flipped and in-class

practice sessions for students to plan, explore, and target specific skills/areas in communication that they wish to develop for personal-professional interests.

Course Assessment

Written Assignment	Telling the story of the development of a math idea (to inspire interest)
Speaking Assignment 1	A science podcast to introduce a controversial math(-related) issue (to investigate alternative perspectives)
Speaking Assignment 2	A TED-style talk on a math(-related) controversy (to influence audience)
Tutorial Discussion	To contextualize rhetorical choices (style and language) in communication plans
Learning Portfolio & Critical Reflection	To evaluate and make sense of learning