

Scientific Presentation Seminar

February 28th, 2008

14:00-15:00

NIG Seminar Room (Library 3F)

George Gopen

Duke University

Speaking Your Mind: Oral Presentation of Scientific Papers in the English Language

The successful oral presentation of a scientific paper in English requires more than discovering interesting material, arranging it in a logical manner, and writing it as clearly as possible. All of that, of course, is necessary and must be done as well as you can. But even when these things have been well done, a paper can fail to achieve its goals if it is not delivered with listeners, not readers, in mind.

The audience of oral presentations learn in three separate ways, simultaneously - by listening, by seeing, and by thinking. A conscious understanding of the auditory, visual, and conceptual experiences of audiences is a critical step towards mastery of the art of public presentation of professional communication.

In this presentation, I will explore techniques of successful lecturers that allow them to access all three kinds of learning. There is one desired goal that is common to all three - the need to produce variety. If you speak the same way all the time, your predominantly auditory listeners will find it hard to avoid mental numbness or even sleep. If you do not offer a variety of visual experiences, your predominantly visual learners will find it hard to sustain concentration. If your material is presented only as going forward and not as assuming some kind of shape or flow, your predominantly conceptual learners may descend into confusion. In all three cases, learning how to produce variety for your learners will keep them awake, concentrating, and clear-headed. It will also help you to re-descend into your thinking process and understand better the nature of your paper's contents.

chairperson: Yasushi Hiromi