



## Ludens

### Seminar Presentation Skills for academics

Not everyone is born to be a public speaker. There are people who really like to give talks in public and are naturally convincing. They never seem inhibited or insecure.

They are, however, outnumbered by people who speak in public only if they cannot avoid it, and then only after much preparation, nervousness and a considerable investment of time.

In many life situations, socially or professionally and also in private, one has to express oneself publicly. The long-term career possibilities of a person are partially determined by the quality of his or her presentation skills.

It might therefore be useful for people to learn the most important aspects of presentations in a systematic and profound way and to get constructive feedback. The objectives of this seminar are to improve the quality of the presentations and increase the joy of speaking in public.

#### To present in a dynamic way

Every speaker wants to deliver his message well. A good reception of the message is determined by the way in which the speaker presents himself during the talk. Verbal and non-verbal dynamics, necessary to grip the audience, depend on a synthesis between breath, voice and body. Careful preparation and structuring of a talk including the attuning to the audience make it possible that the message is indeed well received.

#### Why presentation training for academics?

The presentation of results is an essential part of research: making clear what one does and why, in order to make the work replicable and to spread your findings.

**Written** presentation of results submitted to scientific magazines is strictly reviewed, commented on, published or rejected.

**Oral** presentation of scientific research, especially scientific talks at conferences, workshops, etc., is gaining importance due to the growth of the published literature, which is becoming less and less digestible. Oral presentation enables the audience to be convinced by a speaker and thus to select important data or developments from an enormous amount of publications. Moreover, communication often develops as a result of a presentation.

In the process of gaining scientific education, oral presentation, apart from contents, does not usually get much attention. The techniques are typically learnt through practice. Much depends on the skills of the group leader. Considering the current size of scientific groups and the time pressure they are under, it is probable that junior faculty - apart from comments and questions regarding their research - rarely receive personal feedback on the delivery of their oral presentations.

Considering the importance of oral presentation skills for career prospects and promotion, systematic attention to these skills is called for.

#### What we offer specifically

##### A concise, very practical course:

Small, concise blocks of theory and exercises of different types:

Presentation of academic and non-academic topics; short and longer lectures, with and without the use of visual aids; catchword and impromptu talks; voice, speech and theatre exercises and feedback.

Emphasis on the dramatic elements of presentation: body language, speech technique and audience contact with the professional help of a theatre pedagogue

Related to **daily academic praxis**:

Specifically: transmitting complex contents; long lectures with high information density; necessity of clear structuring and 'attention drawers' as visual aids and interim summaries.

Training preferably within the existing scientific group: stimulating group cohesion and enhancing longer-term training effects.

**Much personal feedback** with the aid of video recordings: experiencing and becoming conscious of strengths and weaknesses; trying out tips and techniques, aimed at personal improvement. Short-term as well as longer-term learning results: awareness through concentrated attention to a variety of aspects of presentation.

## Program

Planning and preparation  
Composition of a talk  
The making of a talk  
Use of visual aids  
Catchword and impromptu talks  
Dynamics, how to grip the audience  
Body language: facial expressions, posture, gestures  
Breathing, speech- and voice exercises  
Dealing with nervousness and stage-fright  
Dealing with questions and difficult situations

## Duration

The seminar takes two days. The evening between the two seminar days should be reserved for preparation.

Beginning of the seminar days: 9.00 a.m.  
Ending: 6.30 p.m.

## Trainers

Jolande van Gunsteren-Bolt, trainer / MA,  
Wytze Visser, theatre pedagogue, voice & speech

## Number of participants

Maximum of 8 persons

## Documentation

The participants receive a seminar course book, an SD memory card with recordings of their own presentations and a seminar certificate.

## Further information Ludens Presentation Skills, seminars & coaching

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