

Report

Focus groups about online presenting

Scientific Presenting



Report of focus groups about online presenting

Purpose

Preceding the design of the online presentation training course, focus groups were organized by 3 partners (UM, UNAV and UNED). In order to be able to define concrete Intended Learning Outcomes (IOLs), the focus groups helped us to identify the gaps or the skills the (PhD) students are missing.

Questions for Students

Before the meeting, ask them to make an inventory of which online scientific presentations they joined or gave during the pandemic (e.g. posters, pitches, or oral presentation at online conferences).

- What kind/type of presentation did you have to prepare for virtual conferences (or have you seen at virtual conferences)?
- Have you heard about Pecha Kucha (presenting 20 slides with 20 sec per slides) or Fritto Misto (This is a PowerPoint Presentation of \pm 5 slides of 20 seconds each, so that makes 100 seconds or \pm 1.5 minutes)
- Which kind of strategies did you apply (or could you apply) in your online presentation to capture attention / engage the audience?
- What tools are you already using to create media for your online presentations?
- What are in your opinion the advantages and disadvantages of presenting online, compared to traditional face-to-face scientific presentations?
- Do you feel well prepared for online scientific presentations?
- Which aspects do you want to have more training in?

WG5 FOCUS GROUP REPORT UM 18-03-2022

Duration: 2h

Attendees: 5 PhD students around Europe (2 UK, 3 Germany, 1 Croatia)

Chair: Sabine Langie

Language: English

Audio/video: available for detailed transcriptions

What kind/type of presentation did you have to prepare for virtual conferences (or have you seen at virtual conferences)?

a) Poster in pdf or by sharing information in conference specific website. Poster presentation with Zoom connection.

b) Power point presentation (short presentations, pitch presentations) in Zoom for conferences or summer schools

Have you heard about Pecha Kucha (presenting 20 slides with 20 sec per slides) or Fritto Misto (This is a PowerPoint Presentation of \pm 5 slides of 20 seconds each, so that makes 100 seconds or \pm 1.5 minutes)

- None did. Some indicated that it might be a good idea for pitch presentations, and to make people split up content over slides, but they would want training in it.
- It probably makes people focus on the highlights more.
- Could have been a way to attract people to poster breakout rooms or time slots in online meetings.
- Fritto Misto might be too short for online presentations, as changing between people might take longer than the actual presenting.

Which kind of strategies did you apply (or could you apply) in your online presentation to capture attention / engage the audience?

For posters

- Accompanied by a small video of highlights
- If you wanted to read more, the poster was there
- There were time slots to talk to the presenters in break-out rooms
- Using more visuals and diagrams attracts the attention more
- Using zooming in tools in mini-presentations
- You have more tools to guide people through the poster online – rather than just glancing at it in a real live conference

Comment: There was a remark that it cannot really be called poster presentations anymore, but more like mini-presentations. Some learned more and transferred knowledge better.

Short presentations online:

- showing a video of a new method
- same tools as for real life presentations: creating interaction, audience feedback, polls

What tools are you already using to create media for your online presentations?

- Power Point, Power Point prerecorded, Prezi, and saved in YouTube.
- Prerecorded a pitch as a 1 min voice message
- Zoom was preferred over Teams,
- Remo app where you can go to a table with an Avatar to discuss a poster
- Advantage of Zoom is that you can put it on your phone, in comparison to platforms using an avatar, which needs the use of a laptop
- Avatar based platforms give you more options (lecture room, go to posters, prerecorded talks, walk into workshops), which still gives you some feeling of interactions. While Zoom is just one platform and can become very boring after a while.

What are in your opinion the advantages and disadvantages of presenting online, compared to traditional face-to-face scientific presentations?

Advantages:

- You can attend conferences that you could not attend before
- Most of the students feel less nervous when presenting online
- They can use their notes on the side as help

Disadvantages

- Half of the students prefer to present face-to-face, because they feel they are talking to nobody when using online format
- They miss the natural interaction you normally have in face-to-face meetings, especially during online poster sessions since most of the time they did not get the chance to talk to people (when people did not show up at allocated time slots)
Note: it could work if you have a jury panel going through the break-out rooms, but it no real networking

Do you feel well prepared for online scientific presentations?

- In general yes
- Felt more comfortable behind the screen, less nervous, could use my notes on the side.
- Feels more detached versus daunting feeling when everyone was looking at you
- However, it is hard to capture the expressions from the audience; "did they get it", and to get feedback
- Next time they would ask the audience to switch on the camera so that they feel at least like talking to people rather than a black screen

Which aspects do you want to have more training in?

- Practice on the speed of presenting/talking
- How to behave in front of a camera, and how prevent not to look too nervous
- Where to look at when you present behind the laptop, since you cannot look at the audience. To prevent that it does not look like if you are reading notes.
- Size of the text and figures on the screen versus a life presentation, where the screen is at a distance
- Using the mouse in Zoom meetings can be an overkill to keep circling around figures and distract the audience. How to use it effectively.
- How to record yourself, not just the voice in PowerPoint, but with a video on the side
- Training on how to present again in real life, after being safe behind the computer

Comment: Current provided trainings are focused on presenting in real life

WG5 FOCUS GROUP REPORT UNAV 16-03-2022

Duration: 2h

Attendees: 6 Ph. Students from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Nutrition. UNAV

Chairs: Amaya Azqueta , Ariane Vettorazzi, Lourdes Orejana

Language: Spanish

Audio: available for detailed transcriptions

What kind/type of presentation did you have to prepare for virtual conferences (or have you seen at virtual conferences)?

a) Poster in pdf or by sharing information in conference specific website. Poster presentation in GatherTown with Zoom connection.

b) Power point presentation (short presentations) in Zoom

Have you heard about Pecha Kucha (presenting 20 slides with 20 sec per slides) or Fritto Misto (This is a PowerPoint Presentation of ± 5 slides of 20 seconds each, so that makes 100 seconds or ± 1.5 minutes)

NO

Which kind of strategies did you apply (or could you apply) in your online presentation to capture attention / engage the audience?

- Clearly structuring the contents in the presentation
- Use and practicing intonation
- One of them used "story telling" or told anecdotes to catch the attention
- In general, they consider they are nervous during the presentation and do not pay too much attention to the audience.

What tools are you already using to create media for your online presentations?

- Power Point
- Canva
- Prezi

What are in your opinion the advantages and disadvantages of presenting online, compared to traditional face-to-face scientific presentations?

Advantages:

- Can attend conferences you could not attend before
- Half of them feel less nervous when presenting online

Disadvantages

- Half of them prefer to present face-to-face as they consider they feel they are talking to nobody when using online format.
- They miss the natural interaction you normally have in face-to-face meetings. Especially for poster presentation when using Gather town and someone enters in the zoom in the middle of their poster presentation.

Do you feel well prepared for online scientific presentations?

In general yes, but if they are recorded they do not feel comfortable, especially if they see the camera just in front of them.

Which aspects do you want to have more training in?

- Story telling
- Non-verbal language
- How to select the most relevant information to be presented
- Voice and intonation to catch audience attention
- Tips on how to better know the audience (their interest)
- Strategies to capture audience attention
- Training on how to answer questions from the audience
- Tips for stress control
- Tips to be more natural if they are recorded
- Training to express opinions in debates (in favor/cons)

WG5 FOCUS GROUP REPORT UNED 15-03-2022

Duration: 15-20 min/student.

Attendees: 7 PhD students from the Faculty of Science UNED.

Format: Individual interviews by videoconference (not possible in groups).

Chairs: Óscar Herrero, Rosario Planelló.

Language: Spanish.

Data collected: Responses during the interviews were transcribed. No videos were recorded to facilitate the authorisation of the UNED bioethics committee.

What kind/type of presentation did you have to prepare for virtual conferences (or have you seen at virtual conferences)?

- Short oral PowerPoint presentations with screen sharing via video call software (Teams, Zoom, Webex, etc.).
- Poster presentation in PDF on screen.
- Very rarely, poster presentation in a short video.

Have you heard about Pecha Kucha (presenting 20 slides with 20 sec per slides) or Fritto Misto (This is a PowerPoint Presentation of ± 5 slides of 20 seconds each, so that makes 100 seconds or ± 1.5 minutes)

- NO.
- The only alternatives they have seen for PowerPoint are Prezi and Genially, although they are very rare.
- Although not presentations, some have seen the use of applications to increase audience interaction (Kahoot, Socrative, BrainScape, Quizz), sometimes integrated into PowerPoint.

Which kind of strategies did you apply (or could you apply) in your online presentation to capture attention / engage the audience?

- Short presentations.
- Start with something attractive, striking.
- Include some humor at specific moments.
- Don't just read, narrate more in a storytelling style.
- Slides with little text and very visual, using images and videos.
- Do not overload the slide with too much information.
- Avoid a monotonous voice tone.
- Ask general questions to the audience to make them participate.
- You have to be a good speaker; otherwise, it is impossible to be attractive.

What tools are you already using to create media for your online presentations?

PowerPoint

What are in your opinion the advantages and disadvantages of presenting online, compared to traditional face-to-face scientific presentations?

Advantages:

- Easier to attend more meetings (more time available and cheaper). This also contributes to greater internationalization, especially in small meetings.
- Easier for those who panic about public speaking. Less nervous (you do not see the audience and have the option of having some notes to help).
- Less embarrassment and pressure at home (no worries about clothes, how you move, etc.), and usually fewer technical problems (file opening, connections, pointer, keyboard, etc.).

Disadvantages

- More difficult to get attention and make the presentation interactive.
- No feedback from the audience.
- Some say that it is easier to forget your anxiety once you begin with a face-to-face presentation, because the monotony of the virtual format makes you feel nervous all the time.
- You feel more fulfilled when the presentation is face-to-face.

Do you feel well prepared for online scientific presentations?

5 of the students said “yes” and 2 said “no” (but also not for face-to-face presentations).

Which aspects do you want to have more training in?

- Tools to become more self-confident.
- Basic aspects of public speaking (gestures, breathing, etc.).
- Learning specifically about science communication.
- How to select important content, how to synthesize.
- Alternative software to PowerPoint.
- Basic knowledge of graphic design.



Access to the online presentation training

Access to the workbook and video material of the online presentation training:
<https://ralde.eu/index.php/academicpresenting>

