

# Do Students Prefer Oral Surgery to Oral Presentations?

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### Introduction

It is generally acknowledged that being able to present material in an oral format is an important transferable skill for students to develop. A recent survey of third year psychology students found that while the majority of students seemed aware of the criteria used for assessing oral presentations many (88%) stated that they did not feel confident in giving oral presentations. Indeed some students said they would rather undergo oral surgery than give an oral presentation.

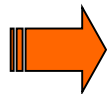
### Organisation

#### Preparation Phase

Students formed small groups and choose an academic paper relating to their current developmental psychology course, to present at a later date.

Assessment criteria and learning outcomes discussed.

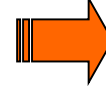
Students actively participated in a variety of techniques used by performing artists to overcome stage fright and help voice projection.



#### Delivery Phase

Each group presented their chosen academic paper to their peers.

Each presentation was digitally recorded for subsequent evaluation and reflection.



#### Evaluation and Reflection Phase

Students viewed their own group's presentation and provided group members with formative feedback.

Each individual student wrote a brief reflective commentary on their own performance.



### Evaluation of Programme

Using a 5-point agreement scale, we compared student's ratings at the beginning of the programme to the end of the programme

	Beginning	End	Test
Confidence	2.47	4.73	$t(28) = 7.68, p < 0.001$
Peer Assessment	2.97	3.24	$t(28) = 1.44, p > 0.05$
Self Reflection	2.38	3.24	$t(28) = 8.83, p < 0.001$

### Student Comments

*"We were able to get into our own groups which help our confidence when we presented the paper. Choosing our own topics ensured that we were interested in that topic."*

*"The drama session was excellent. It provided us with useful techniques and was fun."*

*"I learnt a lot from watching myself on DVD. You can actually see what you are doing."*

#### Overall Satisfaction with the programme

*97% students rated the programme as excellent.*