

Jean-luc Doumont

Boston | Winter 2018

Tue 16 Jan, 13:30–15:30

Making the most of your presentation

MIT | 10-250

Strong presentation skills are a key to success for engineers, scientists, and others, yet many speakers are at a loss to tackle the task. Systematic as they otherwise can be in their work, they go at it intuitively or haphazardly, with much good will but seldom with an effective outcome. This lecture proposes a systematic way to prepare and deliver an oral presentation: it covers structure, slides, and delivery, as well as stage fright.

Wed 17 Jan, 13:00–15:00

Clear, accurate, concise writing

Harvard | Jefferson 250

Most writing classes approach clarity, accuracy, conciseness through style, yet subjective arguments such as “it’s nicer” seldom convince researchers, who wonder what, specifically, is nicer about it. Approaching effective writing from structure, not style, this lecture discusses how to construct paragraphs and phrase sentences that answer all the readers’ questions as effortlessly, as usefully, and as fast as possible for them.

Thu 18 Jan, 13:30–15:30

Creating effective research posters

MIT | 10-250

Most research posters at conferences or in university hallways seem to defy common sense: from two steps away, passersby can’t read anything—assuming they even get past the overcrowded layout. Posters are not magnified one-page papers. This lecture thus discusses how to create more visual posters that get attention, facilitate navigation, and convey messages through strict selection, careful phrasing, and effective layout.

Fri 19 Jan, 14:00–16:00

Conveying messages with graphs

Harvard | Jefferson 250

Widely used in research to analyze and communicate data, graphical displays are still poorly mastered by researchers, who frequently display their data sets in a suboptimal way (and popular software does not exactly help). This lecture discusses how to select the right graph for a given data set and a given research question, how to optimize this graph to reveal the data, and finally how to phrase a useful caption.

Everyone is welcome: tell all your friends, colleagues, and students in and near Boston!

