



Invite an expert

This activity gives students the opportunity to choose, organise and benefit from outside expert speakers. There is an emphasis on treating the speaker courteously.

Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- question a live presenter effectively
- evaluate live presentations
- provide polite, constructive feedback to speaker.

Time required

30 minutes to 50 minutes for the speaker presentation plus 15 minutes for questions. Students should take notes on briefing sheet 1.

Outline of the activity

You will need to organise a speaker ahead of time, or help students arrange this. A group of students should be responsible for finding out about the speaker. They should arrange who will introduce the speaker, and who will chair the question session and / or give the vote of thanks at the end. The speaker should be made aware that their presentation is part of an activity for pupils to develop their listening and observing skills.

Before the talk begins, give students a copy of briefing sheet 1 for them to make notes, and make sure they have had a chance to read the questions.

End with a discussion on what the students may have noticed in the presentation itself.

- Did the speaker convey their passion for the subject? How?
- Was the speaker a natural communicator?
- Was it an enjoyable, engaging performance to watch and listen to?
- Did you feel the speaker was an expert in their field?

Tips and strategies



The talk could be given during an assembly, during a lunch hour, or as part of a Post -16 event or a Science Club. Inviting someone involved in safety of medicines policy or practice, a doctor or drug developer may be of interest beyond the SiS class.

Ensure that the presenter is aware of the purpose of the session, and that the students will be evaluating the presentation.

Emphasise to the students that their aim is to continue to improve their skills in listening and observing, so they should not get carried away with the evaluation side of the task. Point out that by evaluating the presentation like this, they are helping to consolidate their learning and identifying questions they could ask to extend their understanding.

Students should be made aware that asking questions is a polite way to let the speaker know you have been listening and you are interested in knowing more.

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Invite an expert: briefing sheet 1

In this activity you will have the opportunity to practise the skills needed to make the most of presentations by experts.

Part A Before the presentation

1 Fill in the following before the presentation.

Name of speaker: _____

Title of presentation: _____

What is the presentation about?

Part B During the presentation

2 Make a note of all the questions you would like to ask the speaker at the end.

3 Make a note of the important points from the presentation.

4 How would you rate the presenter on the scales below?

Quality of communication

OK _____ Very good _____ Brilliant

Quality of science content

OK _____ Very good _____ Brilliant

How well structured and engaging was the talk?

OK _____ Very good _____ Brilliant

Give reasons for your answer. This will be feedback for the speaker.



Invite an expert: briefing sheet 1

5 As a class, organise some polite and constructive feedback which can be forwarded to the speaker along with thanking them for their time and effort. Think about the balance of positive and less positive remarks. Is it possible to make constructive suggestions about how the talk could be made even better, rather than directly criticising?



Invite an expert: briefing sheet 2

Part C Self evaluation

Once the presentation has finished, evaluate yourself. For each item below give yourself a mark from 1 to 5.

Item	Score 1-5
I concentrated throughout the whole presentation	
I wrote appropriate notes from the presentation which will help me remember points in the future	
I was able to summarise what the speaker said	
I understood everything that the speaker said	
I was able to ask a question(s) at the end to help me understand a point better	
I was thinking about other ideas in science that are related to the presentation	
I made a note of good points and not so good points about the way the speaker presented, so I can improve my own style	
TOTAL SCORE	

After the presentation, discuss these questions in pairs or small groups.

- 1 Did the presenter answer the questions you formulated beforehand? If so, what were the answers?
- 2 What new information did you learn during the presentation?
- 3 Which questions were left unanswered?
- 4 Did the writing of questions before the presentation help you to learn from it? In what way?
- 5 In pairs, identify the key features which make a good presentation.