

Guide to co-presenting a critical assessment of another hypothesis

The goal of co-presenting a critical assessment of another hypothesis is to create synergistic interactions among students through the sharing of ideas, perspectives, and critiques of predictions, evidence and tests of a scientific hypothesis. Another goal is to create an active, stimulating discussion of the hypothesis with your peers (i.e., everyone in the class).

Your partner will present a review of the hypothesis. After this review, the two of you will provide a critical evaluation. Please work with your partner to include the following:

(1) A critical review of predictions, tests, and evidence related to the hypothesis. Has anyone adequately tested the predictions of your hypothesis? If you can find very little evidence to bear on your hypothesis, then together, focus on key tests.

(2) Succinctly identify the key study or studies that need to be done (in your opinions) to convincingly reject your hypothesis. Each person should give their opinion on the plausibility of the hypothesis. Feel free to express different opinions than your partner.

Co-presentations should last about 15-20 minutes. When co-presenting, be sure to provide a critical review from the perspective of a scientist, and include your own opinions. The class will finish with a general discussion. Use any format you wish.

You will have one additional task:
engage and inspire the class so that we all get involved in the final open discussion.

Your co-presentation/critical assessment will be worth 15% of your final mark.

Rubric

Clarity. Did you clearly and succinctly describe your opinions, and other information, so that your audience could understand? (/3 points)

Accuracy and Relevance. Did you accurately present information? Did you stay focused? Were your critiques of the hypothesis convincing? (/3 points)

Coverage and Depth. Did you adequately cover the important information? Did you review the material as a scientist, with careful consideration of ideas and evidence? (/3 points)

Enthusiasm. Did you convey enthusiasm for your subject matter? Were you able to create an active scientific discussion? (/2 points)

Creativity. Were your ideas creative? Did you come up with novel and effective tests of predictions? (/4 points)