

Identifying good and bad practice: resource overview

Collection: Large group teaching

Learning outcomes

This activity, like the peer review activities elsewhere in this collection, is designed to prompt individuals or groups to begin thinking critically about what makes a good lecture/lecturer by observing the opposite. This is a reflective exercise which will help you to develop:

1. an enhanced level of critical self-awareness as a teacher;
2. your ability to spell out and defend your own values as a lecturer;
3. a nuanced insight into the specific teaching skills demanded by lecturing and by your student constituency;
4. refine your ability to prepare lectures effectively.
5. an ability to focus on the lecture medium and your own relationship to it. The confidence to deal with one of the common causes of bad lectures: the over-loaded text.

Overview

The premise of this resource is that by providing examples of bad practice, and often bad practice based upon good intentions, we will assist you in understanding what you are currently doing well when you lecture, what could be improved and possibly what elements of lecturing good practice you simply were not aware of. The resource is based around a mock, mini-lecture given by Dr Nicole King (English Subject Centre) on the subject of 'Brokeback Mountain,' the short story by Annie Proulx. In this mock lecture King demonstrates many pedagogically suspect lecture techniques. Afterwards, in an interview with Brett Lucas (English Subject Centre), she explains how many of her bad



1 | This resource is part of a set of professional development resources for Higher Education English (including English Literature, English Language & Creative Writing) called 'The Pool'. The resources were developed by the English Subject Centre in 2011 as part of a JISC/HEA Open Educational Resources (OER) Project.

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choices in the mock lecture were exaggerations of practice she has observed and even committed herself (many years ago, of course!). How many examples of bad practice can you spot?

Activities within this resource

- Identifying good and bad practice: individual activity
 - The written and the improvised
 - Identifying good and bad practice: group activity
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Resources in the *Large group teaching* collection

- Large group teaching: introduction to the collection
- Peer reviewing lectures: resource overview
 - Peer review: A Science of Literature lecture
 - Peer review: Shakespeare's London lecture
 - Peer review: The Odour of Chrysanthemums lecture
- **Identifying good and bad practice: resource overview (* you are here)**
 - How to give a bad lecture: individual activity
 - How to give a bad lecture: group activity
 - The written and the improvised
- Planning and evaluating your lecture: resource overview
 - The genre of the lecture: individual activity
 - Peer review: group activity



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