Poster Proposal

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Title: “Oral Communication in the Psychology of Music”

The APA’s oral communication guidelines for the Psychology Major require students to “exhibit effective presentation skills for different purposes” and “interact effectively with others” (APA Guidelines, 2013, pp. 30-31). Those guidelines motivated my backward-designed and flipped Psychology of Music course.

Typical class periods scaffolded the topical content via a sequence of three readings. First, [*This is Your Brain on Music*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/This_Is_Your_Brain_on_Music) (Levitin, 2006) provided a foundation for students with no musical background. Second, [*Musicophilia*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musicophilia) (Sacks, 2007) show-cased observational research via qualitative neurological case studies. Third, [*Psychological Science* articles](http://journals.sagepub.com/home/pss) on music served as primary sources for contextualizing more sophisticated research designs and their statistics.

On the evening *before* each class period, students posted online either their PPT presentations, discussion-leading items, or potential exam questions.

Across the semester, each student had multiple opportunities to practice formal presentations and less formal interactive discussion-leading. Each student also had multiple opportunities to work in pairs, practice providing constructive feedback, incorporate peer- and instructor-feedback, and complete written self-reflections.

In addition to the above scaffolding, the semester culminated in student-pairs making an oral presentation to a campus-wide audience, and a corresponding video-based TED-Ed lesson. These required students to learn about open-access resources while adapting their oral skills for audiences versed neither in music nor in psychological science.

Statistical analyses of student-learning-outcomes revealed a significant positive correlation between discussion-leading and integrative essay writing. More importantly, students generated video-based open access TED-Ed Lessons to practice oral communication in psychology, and promote the public’s understanding of the Psychology of Music.