

Academic Presentations: *What Faculty Want & The Materials Students Need*

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The Place of Academic Presentations

- Widespread part of student experience
(Alexander, Argent and Spencer, 2008)
- Used in all Faculties in University of Nottingham
Ningbo China (UNNC)

Why Academic Presentations?

- Observation of presentations in UNNC
- Possible to deliver a technically good presentation but a poor academic presentation

Aims

- Determine the requirements of academic presentations
- Develop materials to enable students to succeed in the wide range of academic presentation tasks

Understanding Academic Presentations

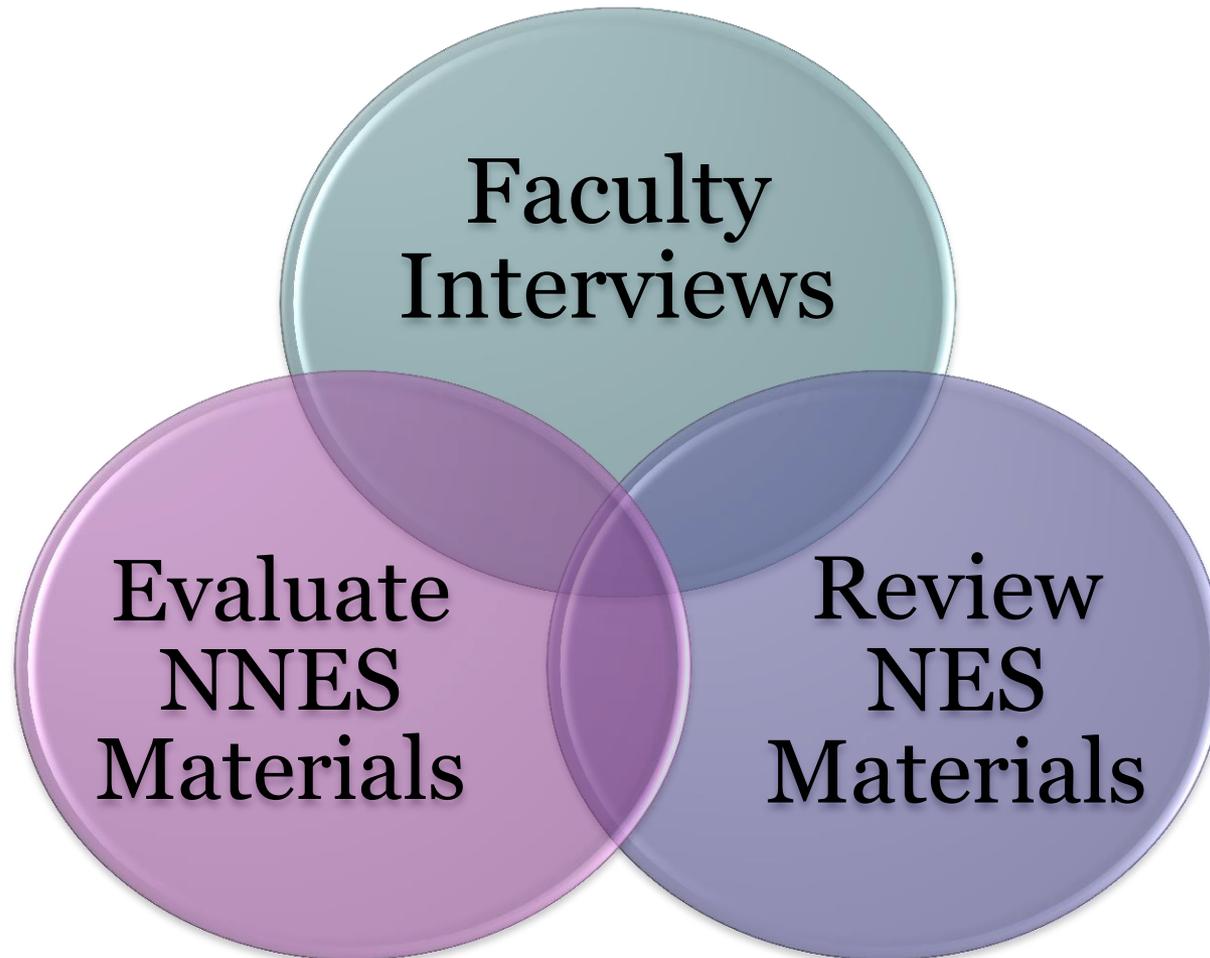
A decorative graphic consisting of a solid teal horizontal bar that spans the width of the slide. Below this bar, on the right side, there are several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors, including teal and white, creating a layered, stepped effect.

What is known about Academic Presentations

- Identified presentations as a major type of academic oral discourse (Ferris & Tagg, 1996)
- Academic discourse socialization research (Zappa-Hollman, 2007)
 - Identified characteristics of academic presentations in 4 different disciplines
- Academic presentations are ‘an integral part of the network of academic genres’ (Zareva, 2009)
 - Still little known about their features



Building A Better Understanding



Faculty Interviews

- Interviewed lecturers from

Arts, Education & Social Sciences

- Business
- Law
- Education
- English Studies
- International Studies

Science & Engineering

- Architecture
- Environmental Science

Interview Coverage

1. Why are student presentations used in higher education?
2. What kind of presenting and presentations do your students have to do?
3. What makes a good presentation for your division?
4. What makes a presentation academic?

Features of the Academic Presentation

Demonstrates
mastery of
subject

Research -
based
arguments

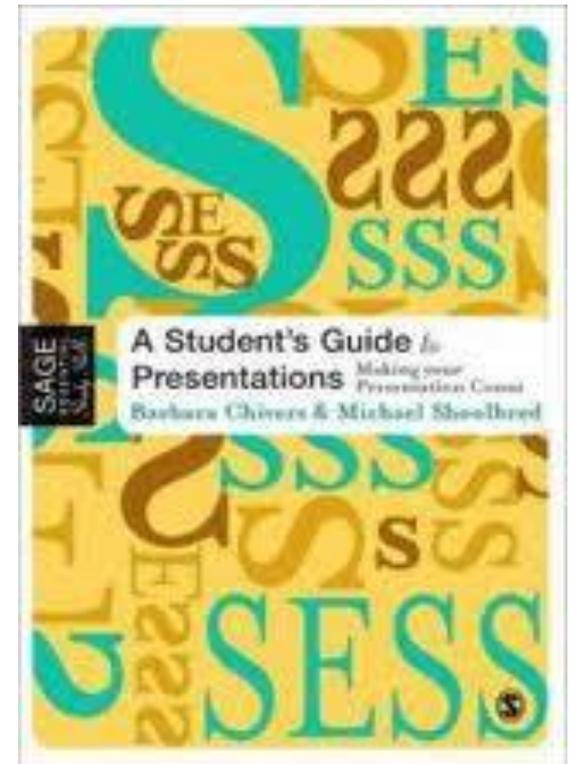
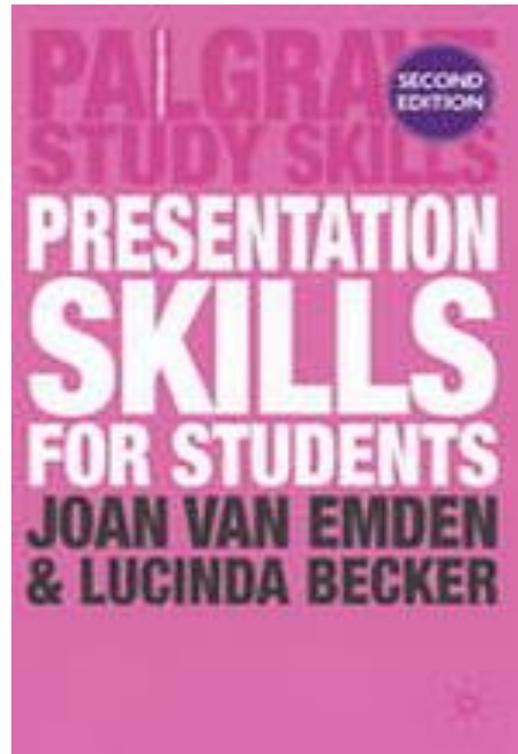
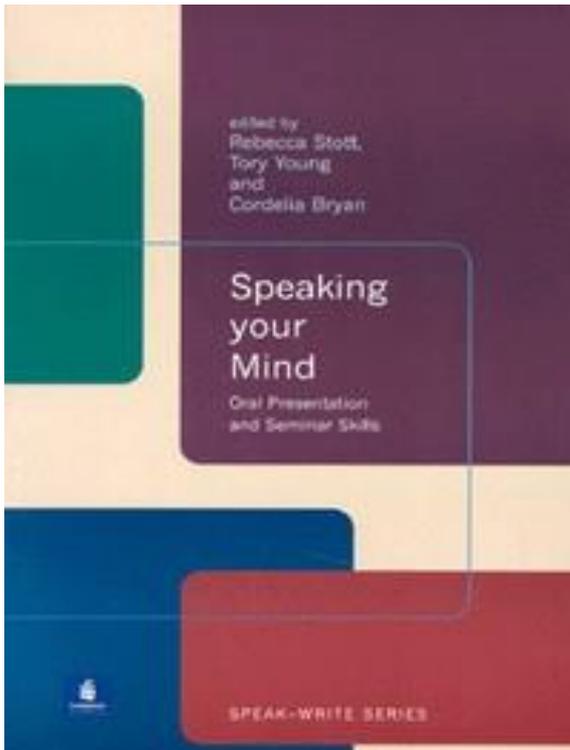
Verifiable &
Referenced

Synthesised
sources

Time aware

Encourage
further
discussion

Reviewing NES Training Materials



Reviewing NES Training Materials

Understanding
the Audience

Dealing with
Nerves

Group
Presentations

Peer
Assessment

Using Your
Voice

Notes & Visual
Aids

Evaluating NNES Materials

- Conducted a criteria driven evaluation of NNES presentation books (Tomlinson, 2007)

General Impression (30%)

Criteria (70%)

Course
Design

General
Presentation
Skills

Academic
Presentation
Skills

Language
Support

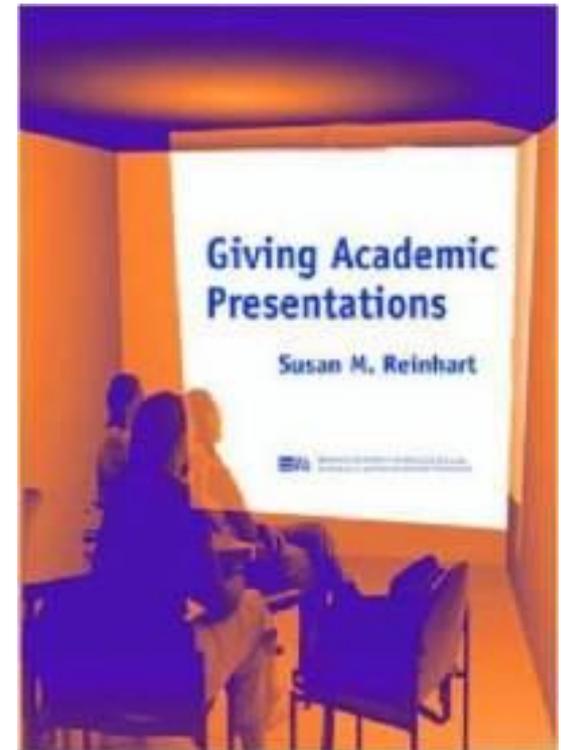
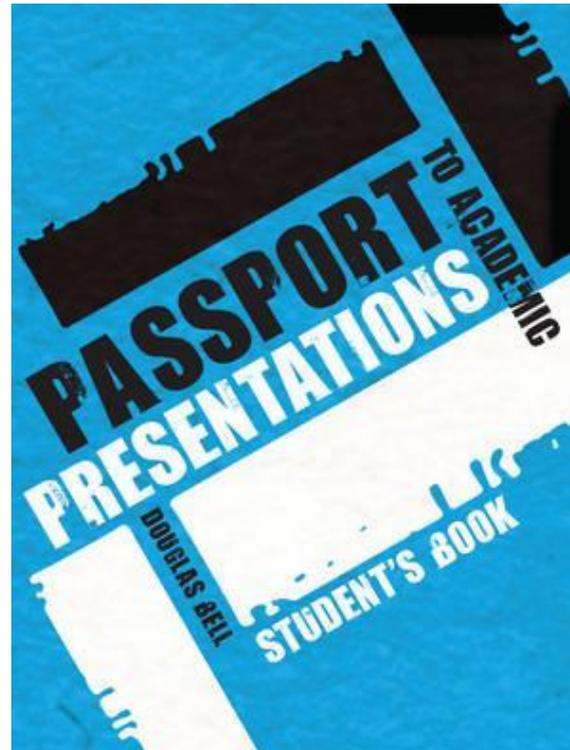
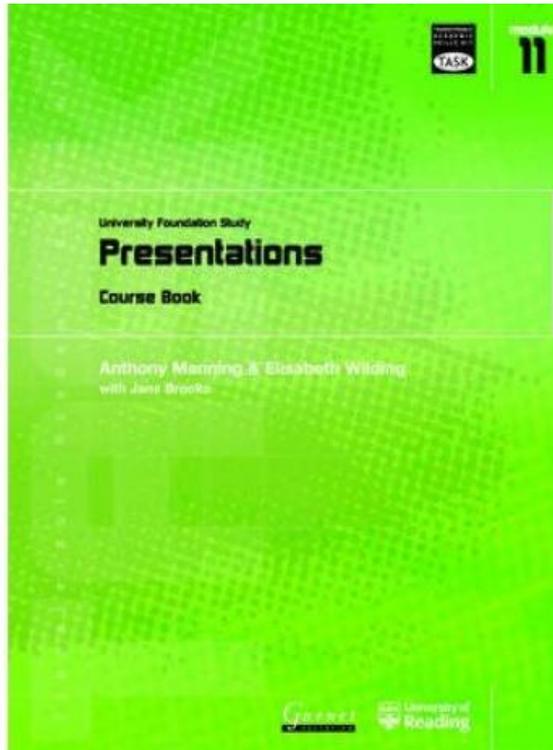
Sample Criteria: Academic

To what extent will learners be able to give presentations of different genres, e.g. problem-solution / research-based / presenting a journal article / poster presentation?

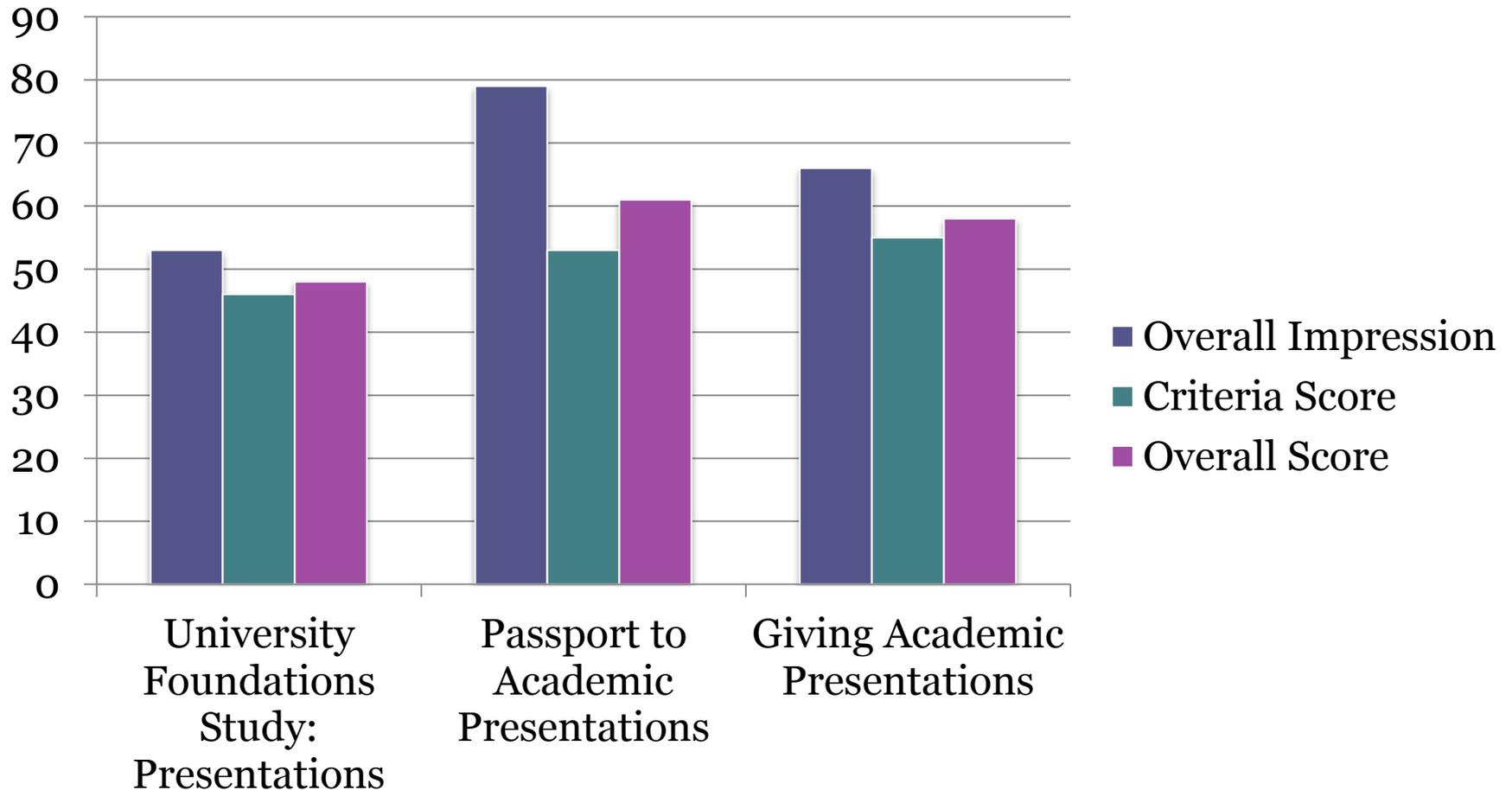
Are the learners likely to be able to avoid plagiarism when planning their presentations?

How likely will the learners be able to cite their sources effectively both orally and in visual aids?

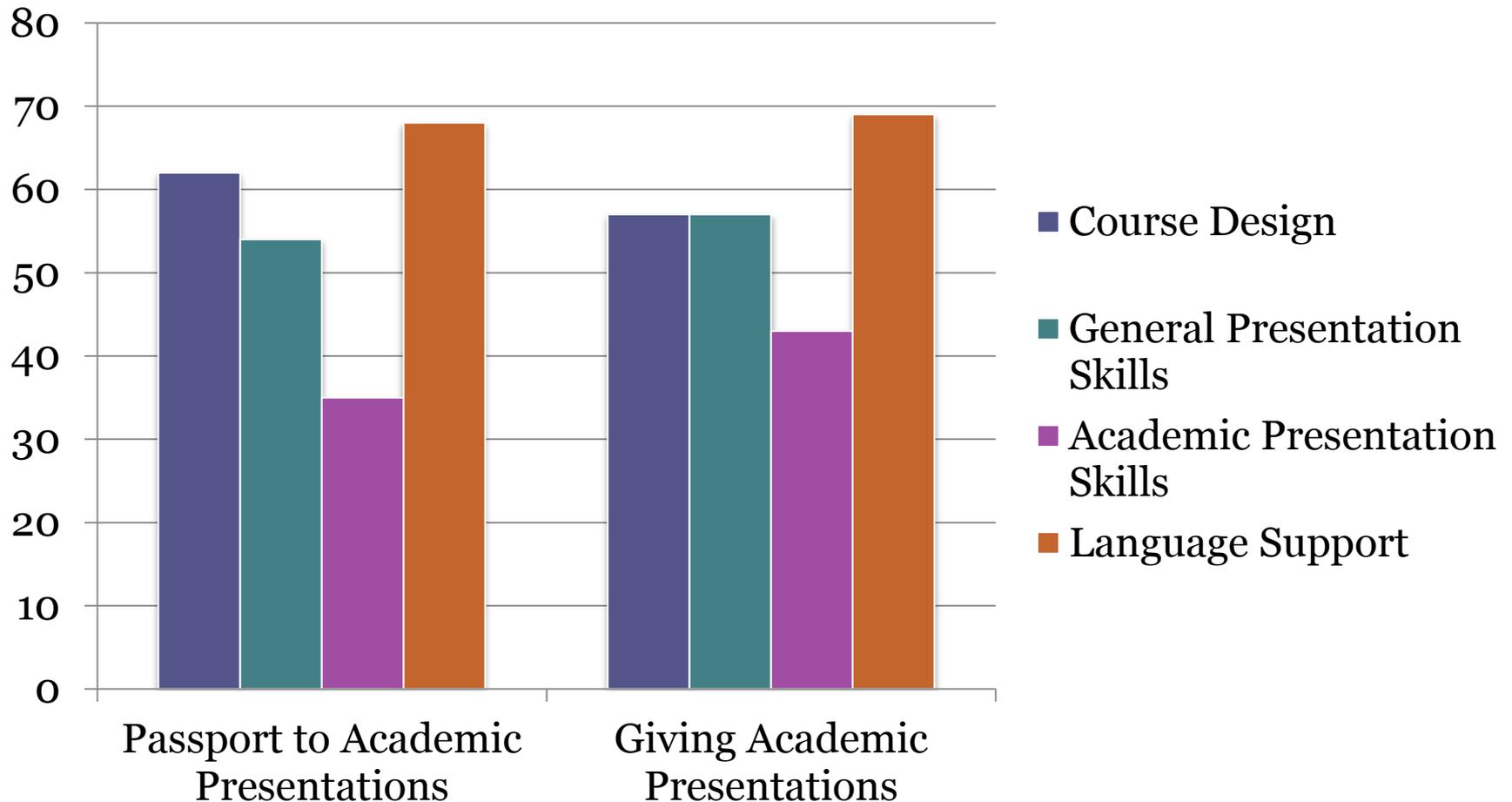
Evaluating NNES Materials



NNES Evaluation Results



NNES Evaluation Results: Criteria

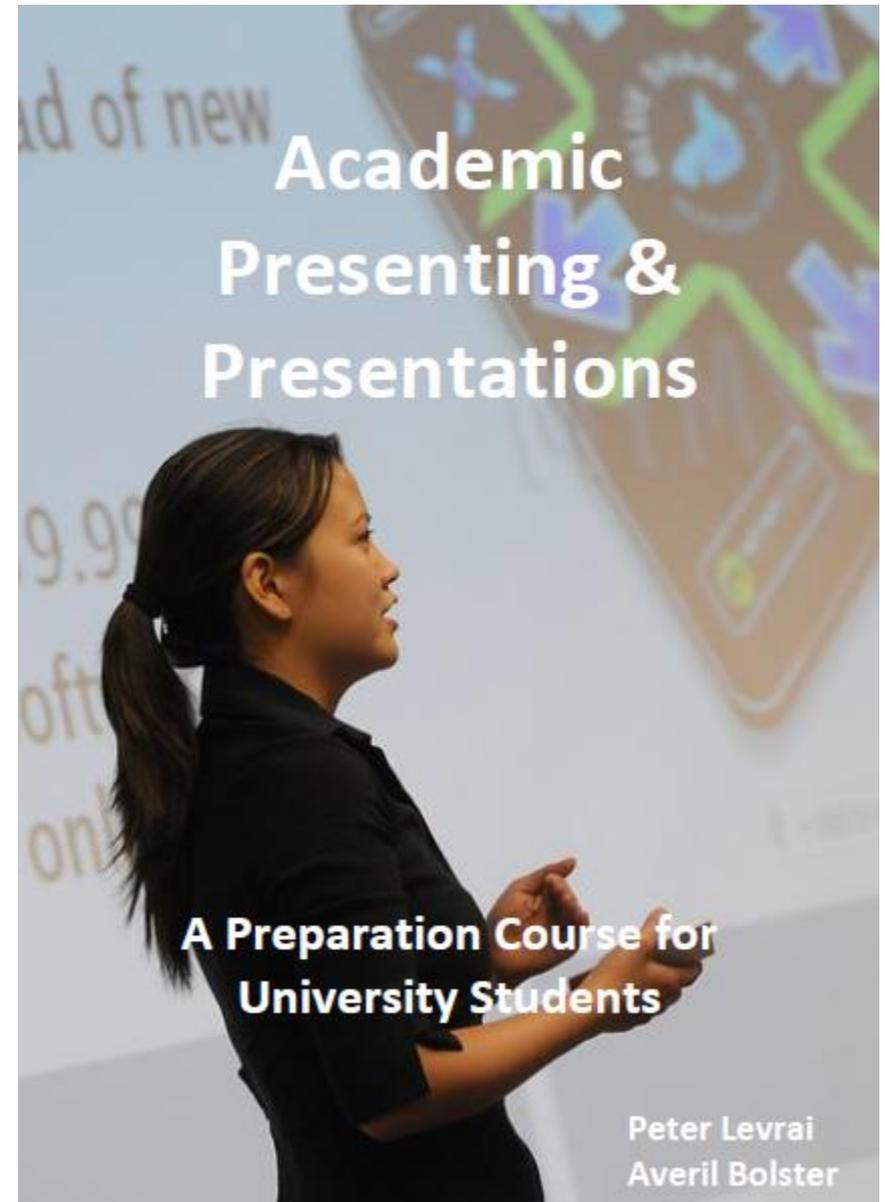


Introducing *Academic Presenting & Presentations*

A research-based course

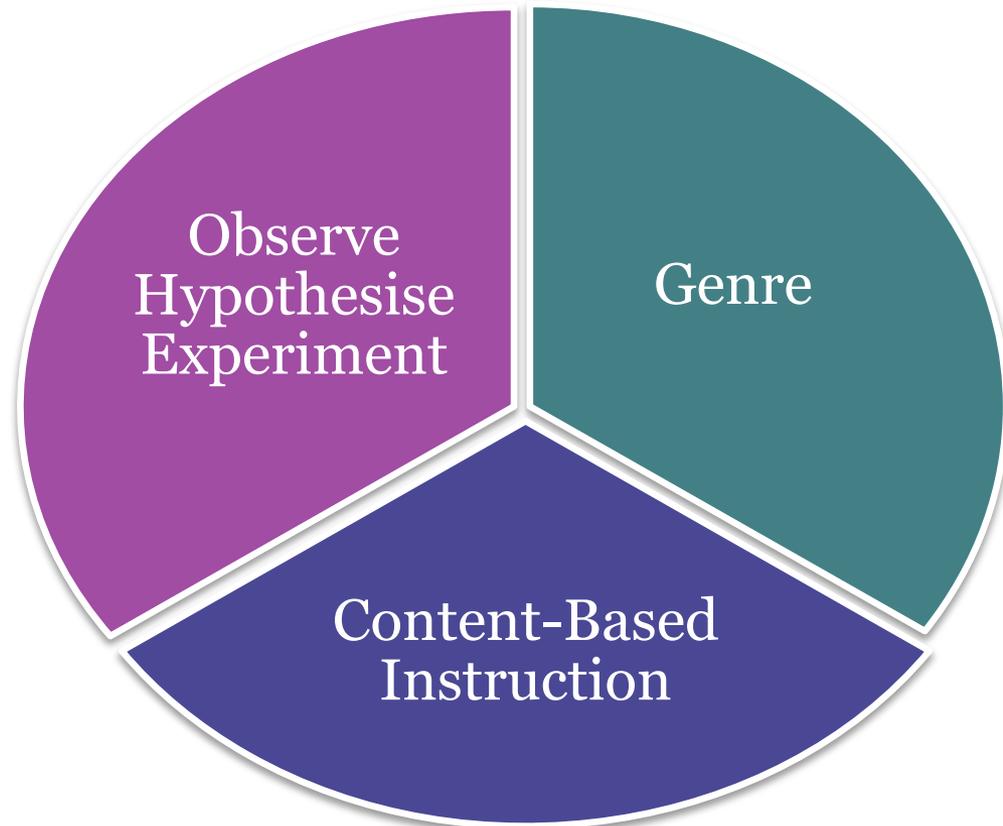
Core Concept

Effective presentation skills alone will not lead to a successful academic presentation



Course design

- Methodology informed by 3 threads



Genre Analysis (Hyland, 2007)

Introduction to
Presentations

What is an Academic
Presentation?

Presenting a Paper

Elevator Pitch Poster
Presentations

Persuasive
Presentations

Presenting Progress

Problem-Solution
Presentations

Research
Presentations

Content-Based Instruction (Coyle, Hood & Marsh, 2010)

- Initial content around sustainability
- Developed into study skills

Presenting a Paper

Research

Problem-Solution

Plagiarism

Observe, Hypothesise, Experiment (Lewis, 1993)

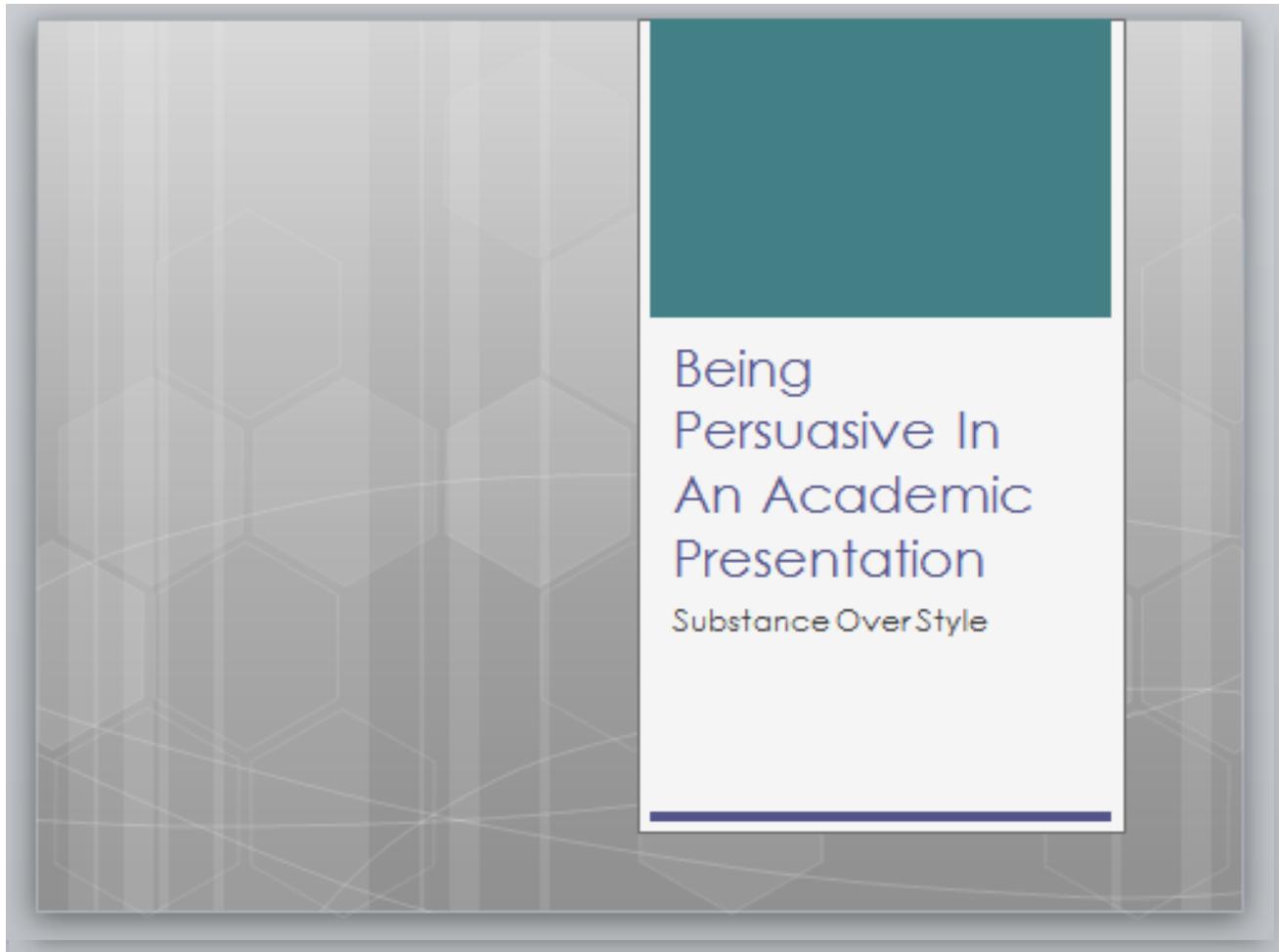
- A video-led course
- All natural presentations with strengths and weaknesses

11 Sample
Presentations

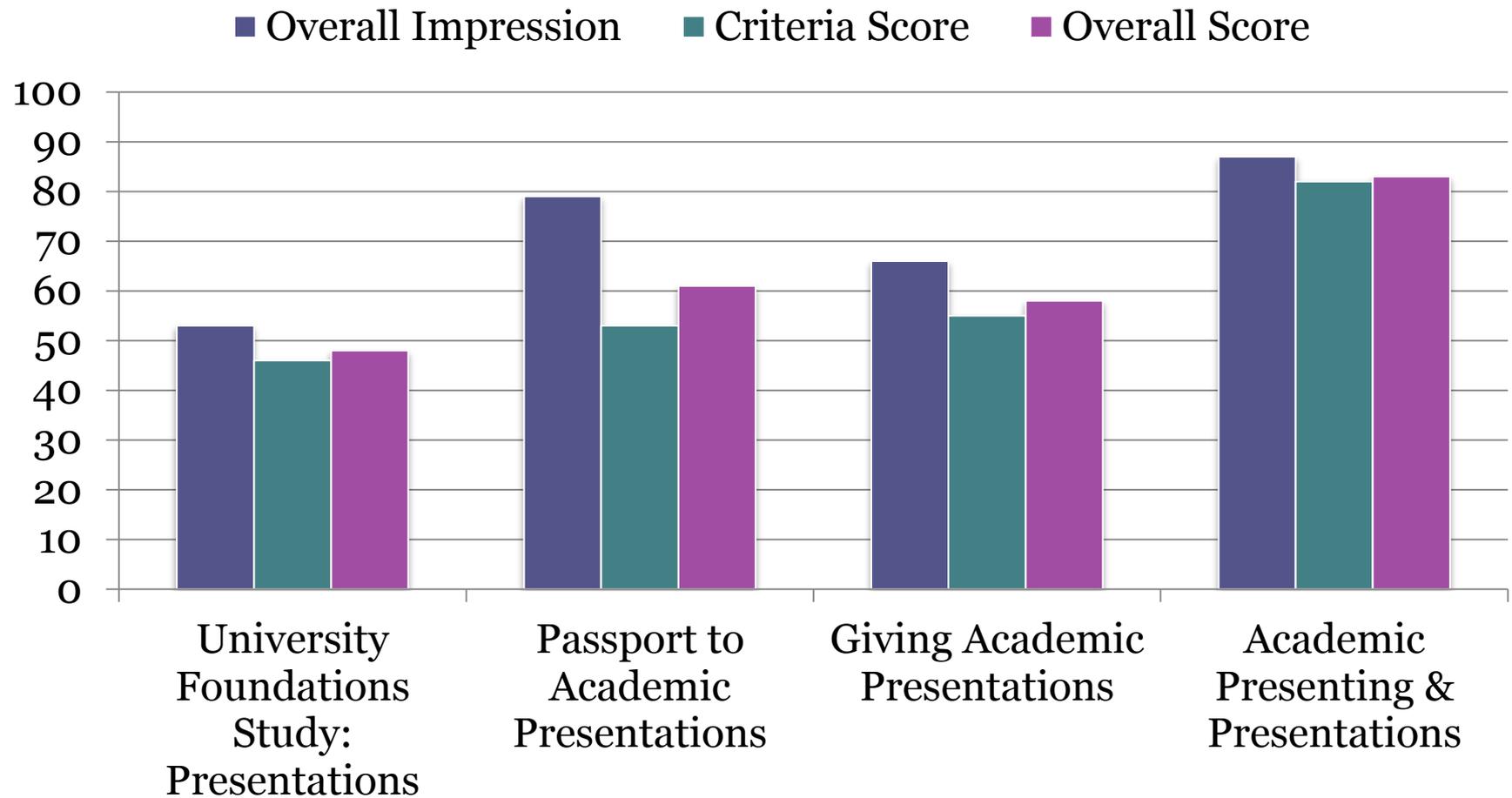
16 Learning
Presentations

- $\frac{1}{3}$ input, $\frac{1}{3}$ preparation, $\frac{1}{3}$ practice

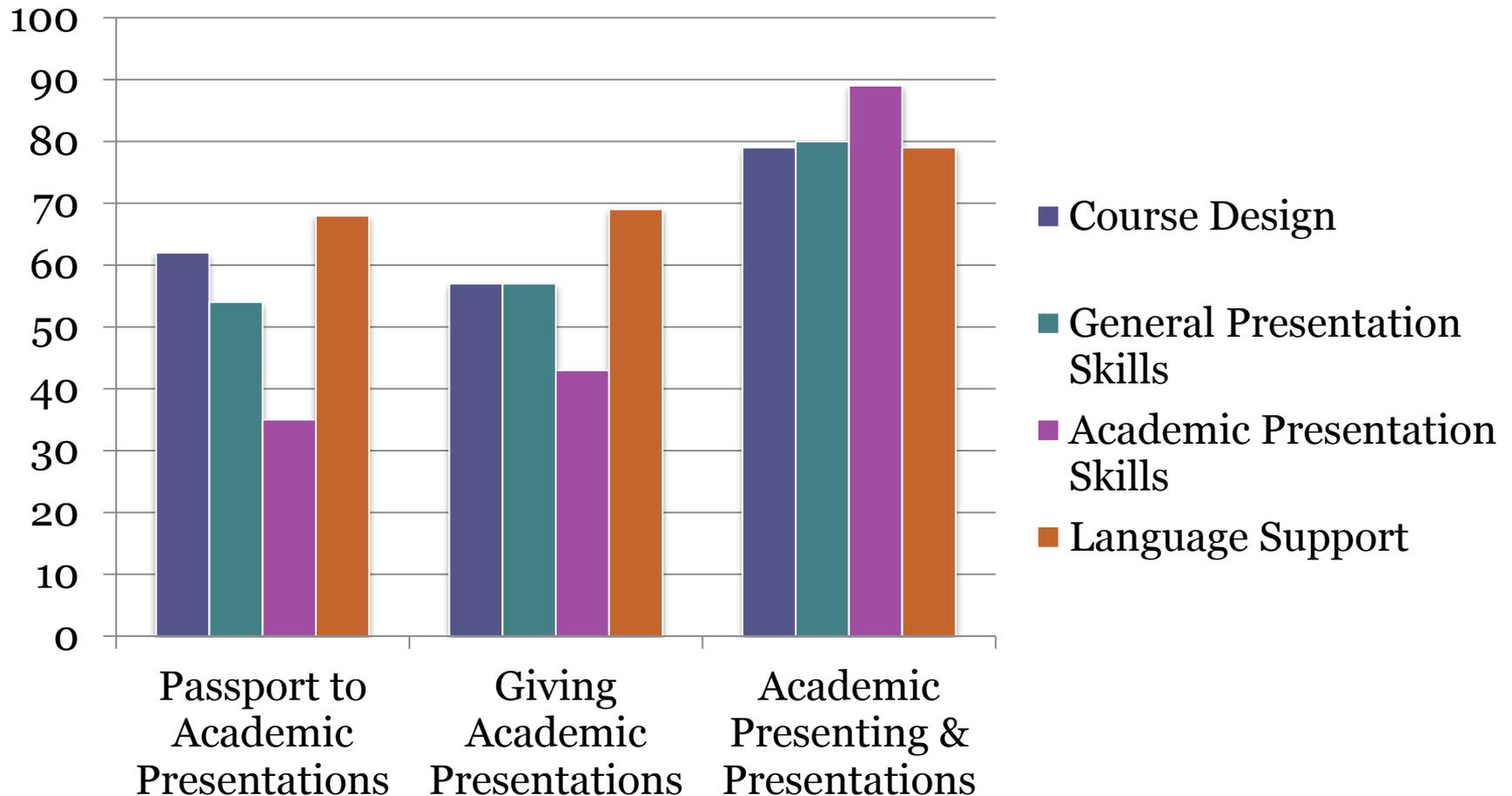
The Persuasive Presentation



Evaluation Comparison



Evaluation Comparison: Criteria



Conclusion

- Presentations are important area requiring further research
- Our contribution

Identified
features
lecturers
value in
presentations

Tool for
evaluating
academic
presentation
materials

‘Academic
Presenting &
Presentations’
Course

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Thank You

Any questions?

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