

School of Chemistry

English for Academic Purposes Teaching



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Presentation Workshop 1

English for Academic Purposes for Chemistry PGRs.

Tuesday 7th May 2024

Session 1: Focus on delivering a three-minute thesis presentation

Rationale

A three-minute presentation requires you to concisely present the topic of your thesis.

It will allow you to practise delivery, transition and conveying complexity in a concise and summarised form.

It will also allow you to frame your thesis at the macro level- what is the importance and significance of your research.

Session 1: Focus on delivering a three-minute thesis presentation

Plan for the session

Explore two samples and unpack the techniques for engagement and explaining the complexity of the research through choice of words/phrases and voice.

The 3MT

Developed at the University of Queensland.

‘The competition supports [] capacity to effectively explain [] research in three minutes, in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience’.

Harnessing communication and research techniques in a competitive format.

<https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/higher-degrees-researchstart-your-3mt-journey-here>



3MT samples from Chemistry

Watch the two examples and consider the following questions:

1. What is the problem the researcher is aiming to address?
2. What is engaging about the presentation?
3. What is informative about the presentation?
4. What is persuasive about the presentation?



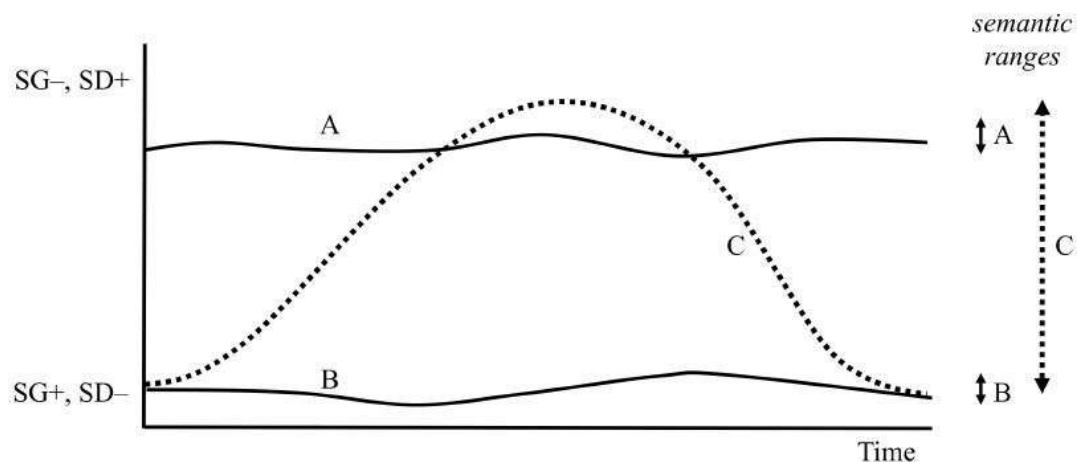
The Structure

Can you see a similar structure in the two presentations?

Can you identify functions within the structure? I.e Explaining the problem.

Unpacking Technicality

Semantic gravity refers to how concrete and relatable the knowledge you are presenting is. (Maton, 2013, Pountney, 2020)



'Semantic profile of practice' Figure taken from Pountney, 2020;
<https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/kierng/2020/06/24/waving-not-drowning/>

Weak semantic gravity – abstract/
technical

SG-

Strong semantic gravity – concrete/real
life applications

SG+

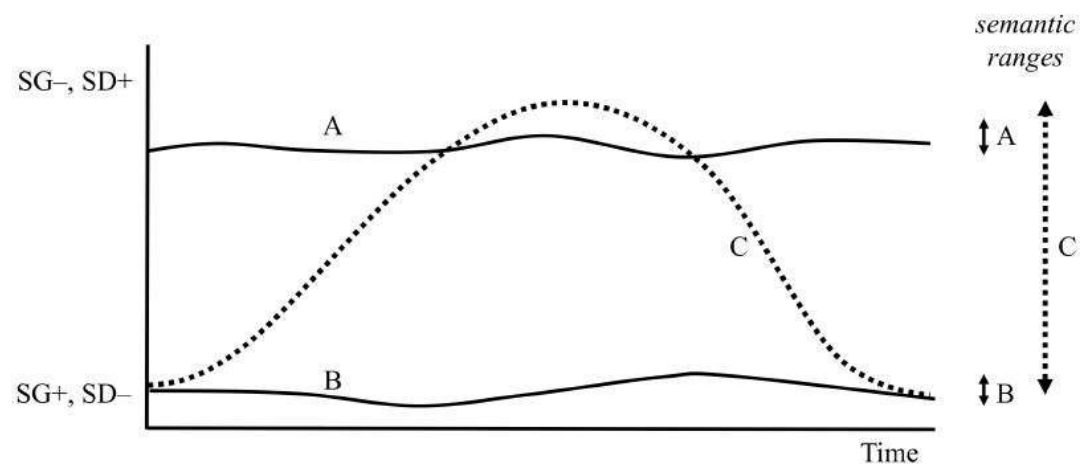
Unpacking Technicality

Semantic gravity refers to how concrete and relatable the knowledge you are presenting is.

Task

Re-read/listen to the transcripts and can you plot the semantic gravity in the knowledge being presented to the audience.

Does it achieve the curve?





Your narrative

3MT are a good way of you exploring the main narrative of your research.

This narrative can then be built on for longer presentations to different audiences.



Your 3MT

1 slide/visual aid!

3 minutes to present;

- Consider your problem/solution narrative
- Consider ways to engage the audience
- Consider what information needs to be conveyed and understood
- Consider elements of persuasion



Your 3MT

Next Tuesday in groups of 4/5.

Sign up to a slot.

We'll do peer-feedback based on today's exploration.

References

Maton, K. 2013. 'Making semantic waves: A key to cumulative knowledge-building' *Linguistics and Education*. **24** (1) pp. 8 – 22.

Monbec, L., 2018. Designing an EAP curriculum for transfer: A focus on knowledge. *Journal of Academic Language and Learning*, 12(2), pp.A88-A101.

Pountney, R. 2020. 'Waving not drowning: helping learners to apply theory to practice.' *Knowledge in Education Blog*. [Accessed 30th April 2024]. Available from <https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/kiERG/2020/06/24/waving-not-drowning/>