

Lab practicals

This document brings together a summary of the discussion outcomes from the session led by Professor Kevan Gartland on lab practicals, at the event 'Teaching in the Biosciences: an Introduction for Postgraduates and Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows' held at Anglia Ruskin University on 11 November 2011.

What makes a good demonstrator?

From when you were an undergraduate, what made your demonstrators helpful to you and what characteristics did they possess?

Group 1:

- Enthusiasm
- Patience
- Flexible
- Approachable
- Attentive
- Honest
- Well prepared/knowledgeable

Group 2

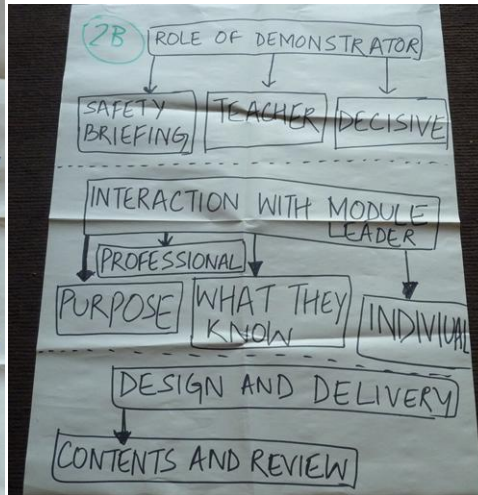
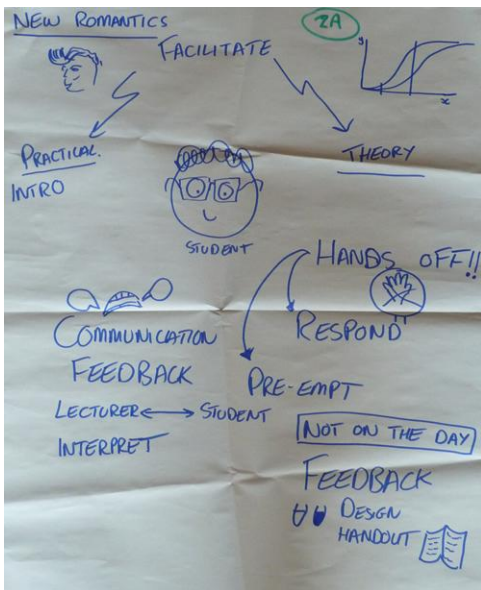
- Approachable
- Polite
- Good listener
- Persona
- Knowledgeable
- Helpful
- Well-prepared
- Interaction/interpersonal skills

Key qualities: acting as a guide and building rapport; being positive, empathetic and sympathetic, and interested.

What is the role of a demonstrator?

In what ways do they/should they interact with the rest of the teaching team and contribute to the design and delivery of the course?

Both groups were encouraged to record their thoughts pictorially: see below for images of the resulting flip charts.



Advice to first year students regarding practical work

- Prepare
 - Read schedule
 - Understand aim(s) of the practical
- Pay attention
- Ask questions
- Show interest/engage
- THINK!
- Tidy up
- Teamwork
- Reflect on your learning and the links to your lectures
- Feedback to demonstrators/staff