

Getting started in Educational Research in the Sciences

Group Activity

Scenario 3

Traditionally, as part of a Biochemistry module, students are asked to give an oral presentation (in small groups) on a themed heading. The students come from a range of degree programmes and a substantial minority come with preconceptions that biochemistry is hard and have low confidence in their own abilities. You suspect that for these (and other students) the pressure of public speaking and its associated anxieties dominate their thoughts and hinders their learning and comprehension. This year you've done something different: instead of the oral presentation each student group has been asked to produce a short film. Casual observation of the students on film suggests that they are more comfortable with this approach and that their personality and creativity becomes more apparent. How would you assess the creative approaches of the students? Can any improvements be linked to the 'short film' activity?