

Introduction:

This lesson plan will encourage students to learn more about the styles and expectations of American academic presentations and to reflect on presentation styles of their home languages and cultures. By comparing presentation styles, students will better understand how their own cultural rules about presentations differ from American approaches to presentations. Students will also have an opportunity to apply the new knowledge about presentations in American culture in preparing their own presentations.

Objectives:

As a result of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the basic presentation structure and components in American academic presentations, in their home culture, and in the cultures of their peers.
2. Articulate the similarities and differences in presentation styles between American academic culture and their home cultures.
3. Analyze the structure of American presentations independently and in groups.
4. Apply their new knowledge of American presentation styles to their own presentations.

Time:

1 hour.

Group Size:

Small group.

Materials:

Presentation Styles Handout; [Sample video](#) about presentations in American academic culture (also in [Links](#)); Computer with access to the internet.

*Note: To prepare for this class, students should pick a topic they want to present about in their area of study and prepare to write the tentative presentation content.

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Cultural Self-Awareness

- To articulate insights into own cultural rules and biases (e.g., seeking complexity; aware of how their experiences have shaped these rules, and how to recognize and respond to cultural biases, resulting in a shift in self-description).

Knowledge of Cultural Worldview Frameworks

- To demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs & practices.

Verbal and Nonverbal Communication

- To articulate a complex understanding of cultural differences in verbal and nonverbal communication (e.g., demonstrates understanding of the degree to which people use physical contact while communicating in different cultures or use direct/indirect and explicit/implicit meanings).
- To skillfully negotiate a shared understanding based on these differences.

Other Skills:

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.

Activity Instructions:

1. Hand out printed copies of the Presentation Styles Handout or ask participants to open a digital copy of the document to fill out on their computers/tablets.
2. Show the [sample video](#) about a presentation delivered in an American academic setting and instruct students to take notes about the presentation style by filling in the part about presentations in American academic culture in the Presentation Styles Handout.
3. Instruct students to reflect on the presentation style in their home language and culture as well as compare it to American culture by filling in the remaining part of the handout.
4. Place students in groups of 3 to 4 and instruct them to share their observations of the sample presentation with each other, as well as share how presentations are delivered in their home cultures and languages. They should collaboratively take notes about their discussion to share with the group.
5. Engage students in a large group debriefing, asking the following questions:
 - What is included in the introduction of the sample presentation?
 - How does the presenter develop his topic in the body of the presentation?
 - How does the presenter develop each part of the body? How does he construct an argument?
 - In your group discussion, what did you learn about the presentation styles in your peers' cultures?



- In your opinion, which presentation style, that of American academic culture or of your home culture, is better? If you can't decide, please explain why.
6. Instruct students to take out their written assignment on their favorite presentation topic and work to develop an outline for this presentation using the presentation style in American academic culture.