

I remember when I first came to Canada, I had to do my driver's test again. I had been driving for 7 years already in England but here, I failed 2 times for not looking in the mirror often enough and not stopping the required distance from the stop line! Obviously, driving had become second nature and I did not think of all the little components. When I put together slideshows, similarly, I often launch straight into them and have to stop myself and remember to take all the steps I should be effective.

I teach a presentation skills class and one of our assignments is a Team Presentation. The first time I did this, it was not very successful. While all the students struggled, the large proportion of international students struggles a lot. I have revamped this assignment and broken it down into many small components.

Component Skills and Steps:

1. Introduction to working in teams using the Marshmallow Challenge.
2. Conducting research using the library database and finding a topic.
3. Team presentation worksheet – outline the presentation key points, members responsibilities etc
4. Learn effective use of PowerPoint using TED Talk: “Death by PowerPoint”.
- 5 Apply PowerPoint strategies to develop an outline – PowerPoint design and presentation talk outline.
6. Non – verbal communication.
7. Verbal communication and effective presentation skills.
8. Review strategies for presenting using Zoom.
- 9 The Presentation.

Component skills:

A basic understanding of citation & references and their importance in academic writing
Knowledge of what a credible academic resource looks like and where they are found
Ability to identify the difference between common knowledge and information that needs to be referenced
Understanding of what types of bibliographic information are crucial to preparing a citation / reference