

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Science in Plain English (SIPE) Contest

What is the contest about?

In 3 minutes, each Year 2 or 3 Science student will present, individually, a scientific concept which fascinates them, in an engaging, simple, clear, accurate and appropriate manner to "wow" and really inspire a non-scientific audience.

What inspires the contest?

The skill to explain and communicate simply is both necessary and lacking in the scientific community. Given that science impinges more than ever on our lives, as many political issues, such as energy, health, environment and so forth have a scientific dimension, our society needs scientists who can help people understand key ideas in science simply so that they become knowledgeable enough to engage in public debates on these issues that have a significant impact on their lives and those of the future generations. Thus, scientists play a pivotal role in developing a better and more educated society, and as science students, it is crucial to master the skill of communicating science concepts in their fields simply.

Moreover, to advance their careers, to obtain funding for research, to ensure that others know their work or to talk to the media, scientists must be able to communicate effectively to different audiences. There are occasions when the scientists need to get support from audiences who do not come from science backgrounds. To make sure that these audiences understand the scientists' work easily and are convinced about their work, the scientists must be able to get their message across in an engaging, simple and clear manner.

Who will participate in the contest?

The contest is integrated with the Science in Plain English (SIPE) Oral Presentation assessment in the LANG 2010 "English for Science 1" language and communication course for approximately 400 Year 2 or 3 Science students. The students and instructors will join hands in selecting 22 class representatives to enter the semi-final round. Ten students will then be shortlisted for the final round of the contest.

Who will be the judges?

The finalists will present to a panel of judges comprising of experts in the field of language, communication, science, and technology.

What will be the prizes?

Prizes will be awarded to winners in the following categories:

- Champion
- 1st Runner-up
- 2nd Runner-up

The following special awards will also be given:

- An “Audience’s Award” will be given to the finalist with the highest number of votes from the audience.
- A “Class Award” will also be given to all the members in the class attended by the Champion.

When and where is the event?

Date: Wednesday, 8 November 2017

Time: 6:30-8:00 pm

Location: Lecture Theater B, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

The event will be videotaped for view by the public on the HKUST Video Channel after the event.

What do you need to bring as audience?

All students attending the final round of the contest must bring their mobile phone to the event in order to vote for the “Audience Award” and to have their attendance taken.

Who to contact for enquiries?

Person in charge of the event: Jessie Lam (Tel: 2358-7876; Email: lcilam@ust.hk)

LANG 2010 Course co-ordinators: Liza Yew (Tel: 2358-7867; Email: lcliza@ust.hk) and Carmel Yip (2358-7855; Email lccarmel@ust.hk)