Assignment 1: Science for Everyone

Irwan Hanish

Open this first: Assignment 1 - K1 BMY4993 (Sem 1, 2026-2027)

Learning Outcome

Develop and deliver an oral presentation on a scientific topic for a general audience.

Step 1: Form groups

Form groups on the Google Sheet in the Assignment folder above.

Step 2: Choose a science communication topic or story

Prepare a 10-minute live presentation for the class.

Your group must choose one **scientific topic, issue, case, event, controversy, discovery, or human story involving science**.

Your source may come from areas such as:

- news reports
- documentaries
- interviews
- public health campaigns
- social media posts or trends
- scientific discoveries
- case studies
- patient or community experiences
- science-related events in daily life
- fiction or popular culture such as movies, TV series, video games, anime, novels etc.

Criteria for choosing your topic

A. It involves science that matters beyond the classroom

Your topic should not be just a textbook concept in isolation.

It should connect to people, society, health, technology, the environment, behaviour, risk, policy, or daily life.

B. It is explainable to a non-expert audience

Choose something that your group can communicate clearly to people without specialist training.

C. It involves a communication challenge

Your topic should contain at least one challenge such as:

- complexity
- misunderstanding
- misinformation
- fear or uncertainty
- public controversy
- technical language
- ethical sensitivity
- low public awareness

D. It allows your group to make deliberate communication choices

Your presentation should not simply transfer information.

It should show that your group has thought about:

- who the audience is
- what the audience may misunderstand
- what the audience needs to know first
- what examples, visuals, analogies, or explanations will help

E. It allows both scientific accuracy and audience engagement

Your presentation should not become only entertainment or only technical explanation.

Your chosen topic must allow you to do both:

- explain the science accurately
- make the message understandable and engaging

What your presentation should demonstrate

Your presentation should show evidence of the following:

- **audience awareness**
  Who are you speaking to, and what do they need from this explanation?
- **clarity of message**
  What is the main idea you want the audience to understand, remember, or care about?
- **scientific accuracy**
  Are your explanations correct, responsible, and appropriately simplified?
- **structure**
  Does your presentation guide the audience logically from one point to the next?
- **engagement**
  Does your group make the presentation interesting, relevant, and worth paying attention to?
- **communication design**
  Do your slides, visuals, examples, and supporting materials help the audience understand the message?

Step 3: Live class presentation

Give a 10-minute presentation for the class.

- The presentation will be followed by 20 minutes of discussion with the audience
- This live presentation **will not be evaluated.**
- The goal is thoughtful discussion and critical thinking. Share your slides and supporting materials **24 hours before** your presentation.

The presenters will collect all the feedback from the session.

Step 4: Submission of the final report

Based on the feedback, your groups will

1. **Update** the slide deck and supporting materials
2. Write a reflection essay on what you learned from the topic you have presented and the feedback session.
    - There is **no minimum word limit**.

      Don't write unnecessarily long sentences to hit any minimum number of words. Write only the interesting lessons you have reflected on.

- **The maximum word limit is 5000 words**.

  Include only the most important lessons. Discard the rest. (If you need more words to complete your essay, ask me. I'll consider it. I don't want to limit your creativity).

- Submit your essay in the **correct format**.
  - Font: Use the contemporary Microsoft Word defaults:
    - Main text: Aptos (Body), size 12, 1.5 line spacing.
    - Headings and subheadings: Aptos Display (Headings), size 14 or larger.
  - You can add or embed images or links to videos or AI chat conversations that inform the essay.
  - Document format: **PDF** (so your correct formatting is preserved)
  - Label the PDF document with your [Group number] – [Title of your presentation]

    E.g.:

    Group 15 - The Science behind Avengers: Endgame

    Group 17 - The Psychological Differences between Men and Women

Submit your scientific essay to the Assignment folder given above.

- Create your own group's subfolder to put the multiple files
  - Main essay PDF
  - Updated slide deck, images and links to videos
  - extra materials you used for references.

Submit by the last Friday of Week 10, **18 Dec 2026, 2359 hrs.**