

Symposium on Engaging Undergraduates in Research And Inquiry:

A scholarly Dialogue, May 20, 2011, HKUST

1. Project/Course title

Interactive Learning in Animal Biotechnology

2. Project/Course team

Name	Institute	Post	Department/ Division	E-mail
<i>Course Instructor/Project leader:</i> Prof Edwin Chan	CUHK	Associate Professor	School of Life Sciences	hyechan@cuhk.edu.hk
<i>Members (if any):</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

BEFORE

3. Project/Course objectives (or Intended Learning Outcomes) (Suggested number of words 30-40 words)

What did you intend students to learn from this project/course?

Students are expected to learn to think through problems like scientists in animal biotechnology.

DURING

4. Inquiry Based Learning Activities (*Suggested number of words: 75-85 words*)

What did students do (inquiry-based learning activities) during the course/project?

Students (in groups of 4-7) first selected research articles from an assigned topic in the field of animal biotechnology. Then they discussed among the group and presented the research papers in front of the whole class for 30-35 minutes. The presentation was followed by an interactive question & answer session for 15-20 minutes. The PowerPoint presentation files and the research article pdf files were uploaded to the course website so that the whole class could share the materials.

AFTER (*Suggested number of words for items 5 & 6: 50-60 words*)

5. How did you assess the effectiveness of students' learning?

Please give an account of the assessment methods and results.

For the presenting group, students were assessed according to their presentation performance (content, presentation, organization and discussion). The presenting group would receive written comments from the non-presenting students after the presentation. For the non-presenting students, they were assessed by the questions they raised in the question & answer session as well as the comments they wrote down on the comment form.

6. What were the major outcomes of this project/course? Do they match with your objectives (or Intended Learning Outcomes)?

Examples of outcomes include educational software, improvement in student learning or change in student attitude.

Students enjoyed the discussion session very much as evident by the number of questions raised and the volume of written comments received after each presentation. The students' feedbacks also reflected they were very positive about this type of learning activity.