

Speaking in the Disciplines:

An Online “Precedents” Archive of Academic Oral Presentations

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Project Overview

This TLEF project will produce a website aimed to enhance how we teach and learn speaking skills. The site will feature a “precedents” video archive of academic presentations with coordinated curricular materials on scholarly speaking for students and faculty.

Context

Many courses in the Faculty of Arts take a “Writing in the Disciplines” (WID) approach to teaching academic communication, inviting students to see the specific and diverse moves that scholars make in presenting their research. Yet while students have access to many precedents for scholarly writing, they have few precedents for scholarly speaking.

Objectives

Align the teaching of scholarly speaking with the teaching of scholarly writing at UBC.

Introduce students to the different genres of academic oral discourse and familiarize them with genre norms and expectations.

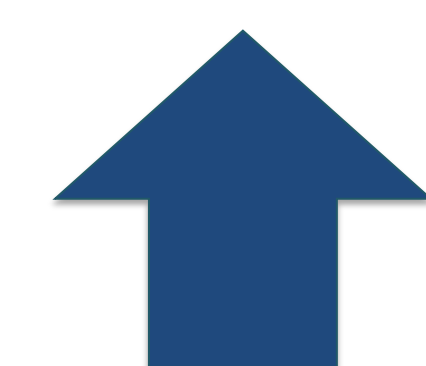
Shift student thinking about oral presentation away from a “performance orientation” that emphasizes “flawless delivery” and toward a “communication orientation” that “views the primary objective as sharing information with the audience” (Motley & Malloy 1994).

Decrease student anxiety around oral presentations by making them feel more confident and competent when engaging in scholarly conversations.

Getting to Know Student Needs

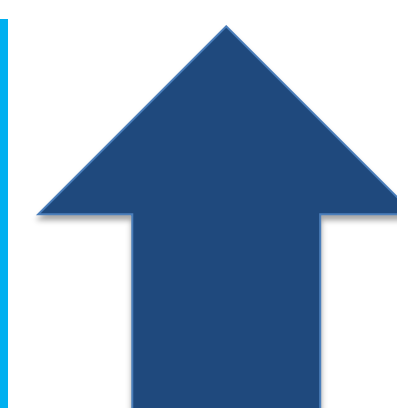
We surveyed students from two first-year Arts Studies courses about attitudes toward scholarly speaking, before and after their end-of-term oral presentations.

In between the two surveys, students were shown precedent videos to help prepare for their presentations.



81% of students reported this preparation helped them feel less nervous about oral presentations

92% of students responded that seeing additional examples of academic presentations would help them feel more confident about scholarly speaking



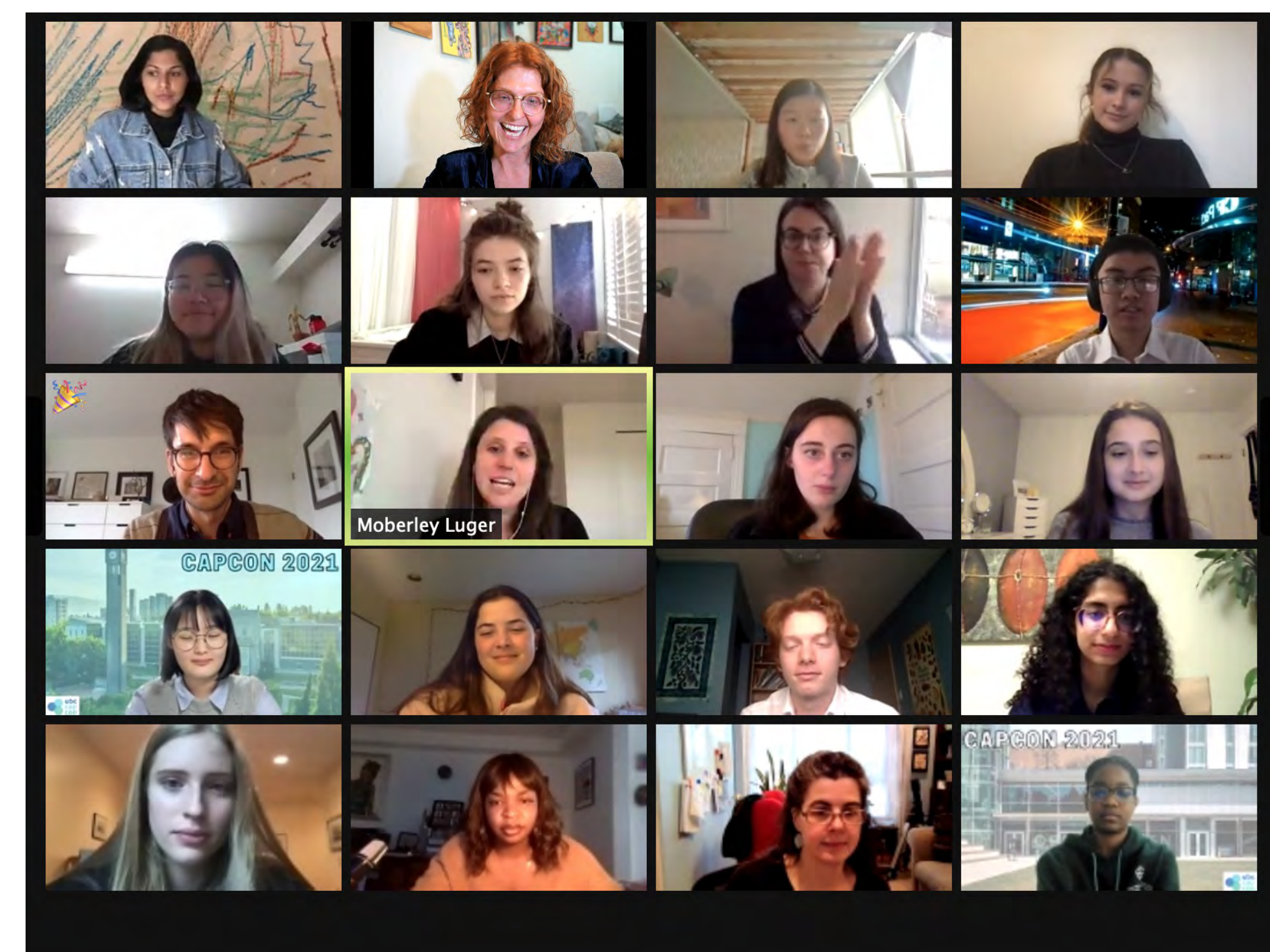
Student Survey Responses:

“I have come to understand academic presentations as a genre that is for sharing research, not [just] for captivating your audience”

...now I know that presentations are an important part of the research process.

CAPCON: Our Initial Archive

Our initial archive will consist of student presentations recorded during the online Coordinated Arts Program Conference (CAPCON) in April 2021.



Students and faculty during a CAPCON research panel

This conference featured exemplary UBC student presentations from a variety of Arts disciplines that highlight many genres of scholarly speaking, including the conference paper, the roundtable discussion, and the multimedia showcase.

Next Steps

This project began in February 2021 and we are still in the early stages of developing our web resource. Our timeline for the coming months:

- Summer 2021: Prepare the videos, design the website, and create the curricular components
- September 2021: Pilot the website for UBC students in select programs
- December 2021: Surveys and focus groups for students and faculty website users
- January 2022: Revision and expansion into other UBC programs

Future Goals

- Expand the archive with scholarly presentations from different disciplines and in different formats
- Collaborate with the Centre For Writing and Scholarly Communication on programming using the archive and curricular supports
- Develop Canvas modules on scholarly speaking that can be easily integrated into UBC courses
- Transition to an open educational resource

Get in Touch, Get Involved

Email us to hear about upcoming opportunities to get involved in the project: volunteer for a curriculum planning working group, join the Speaking Pedagogies Community of Practice, or sign up to pilot the website in your Fall course.

speaking.disciplines@ubc.ca



Acknowledgements

This project takes place on the traditional, ancestral, unceded, and occupied territories of the Musqueam people.

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