Tutor's Guide
Activity 5. Evaluating Visual Aids

Aims

The aim of this exercise is to encourage students to think about the clearest way to present information. Showing poor slides and asking students to evaluate them helps them to see the problem more clearly than simply showing a 'good example'. The skills they learn from this exercise are then further developed in the presentations they give during later exercises.

Activity

Each slide should be placed on the OHP and the students should, as a group, comment on the content and format. The main problems for each slide are summarised below.

OHP Evaluation

Slides 1 and 2

These are pages from a thesis and the author has simply highlighted the relevant points. The main errors with these slides are:

- No title
- The text is too small, especially for a table of data
- There is too much information

Slide 3

The handwritten slide looks unprofessional and untidy. Although probably easier to read than slide 1, the overall impression is poor.

Slide 4

This slide is more clearly set out. However, there are spelling mistakes, so students need to check their work carefully and ask someone to proof read it for them.

Slide 5

This slide contains too many different types of formatting. The choice of background and added shapes make the slide look unprofessional and cluttered. Numerous colourful and artistic presentation formats are inappropriate. Students should bear in mind that too much choice of colour and a poor choice of background design will make their presentation look unprofessional and distract from the content. Using different colours to highlight words is acceptable but should be consistent.

Assessment

This activity is not designed to be assessed.

Meta data

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Author (s)	Della Grice, UK Physical Sciences Centre
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