

Designing an Effective Teaching Demonstration

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Agenda

- Identify the place of a teaching demonstration in an academic hiring process
- Provide research and suggestions regarding strategies/approaches
- Q&A with faculty
- Time to reflect

What is a teaching demonstration, and how does it fit into a hiring process?

How Teaching is Assessed

- Interview questions about your teaching
- Teaching portfolio
 - Student evaluations from your teaching
 - Teaching philosophy statement
- Inferring teaching ability from research talk
- Teaching demonstrations!

What Is a Teaching Demonstration?

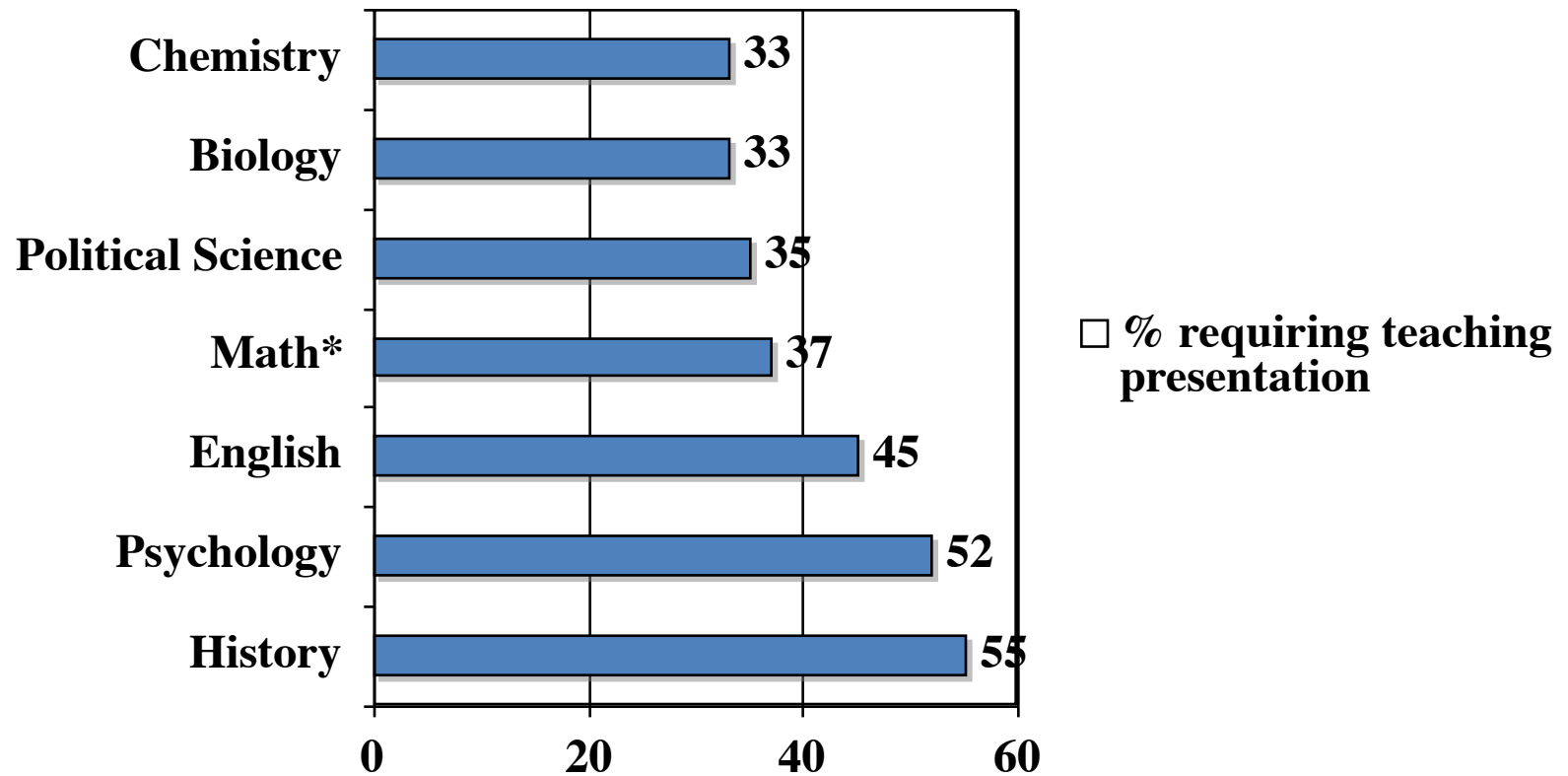
A lesson prepared and delivered by the job candidate in order for search committee to evaluate and assess teaching ability.

Topics and formats vary by institution and field.

Common modes include:

- Existing class, with faculty observers
- Group of students and faculty observers
- Group of faculty role-playing students

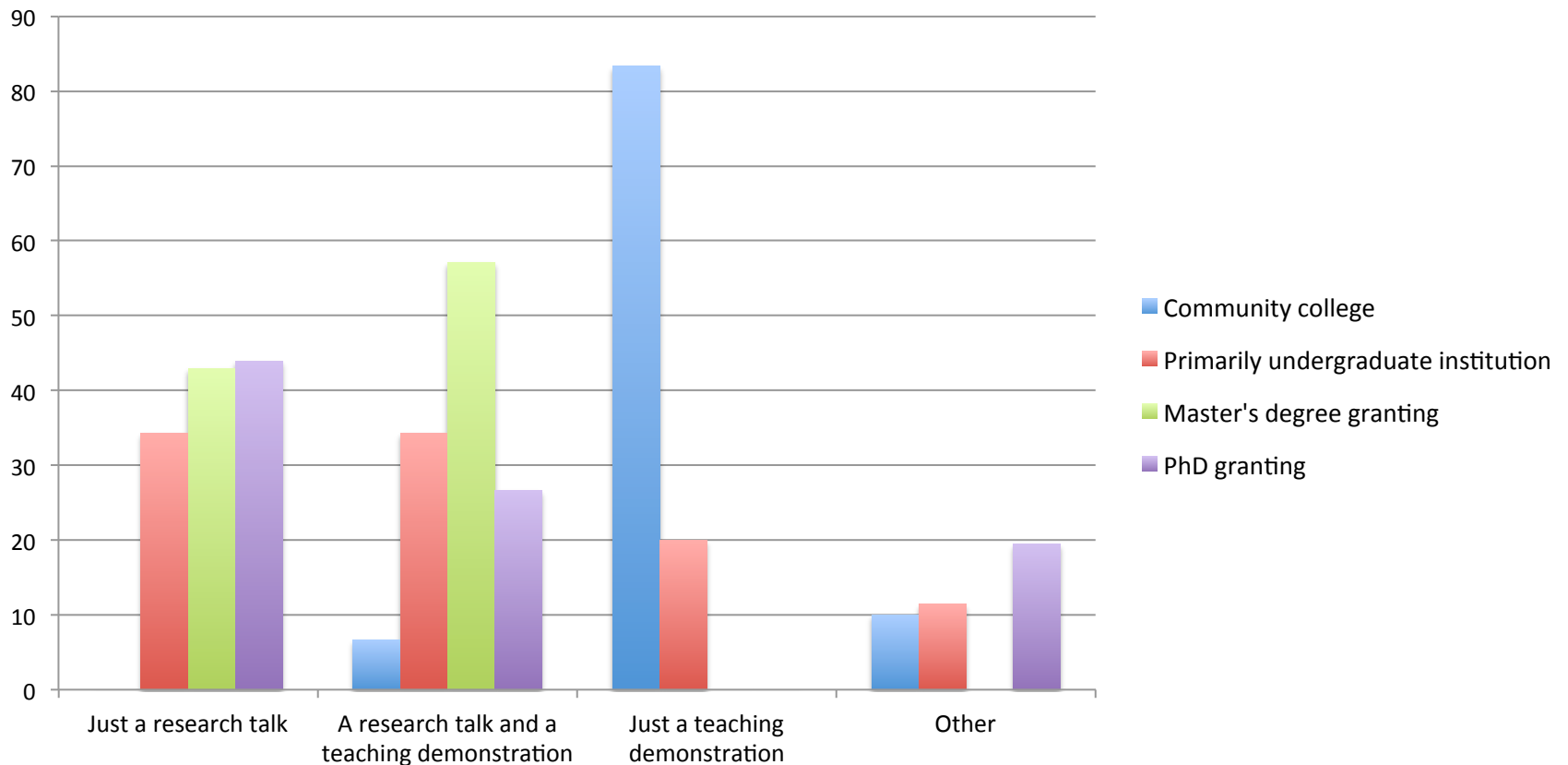
Will I be asked to do one?



From Meizlish & Kaplan, 2008

*From Bruff, 2007

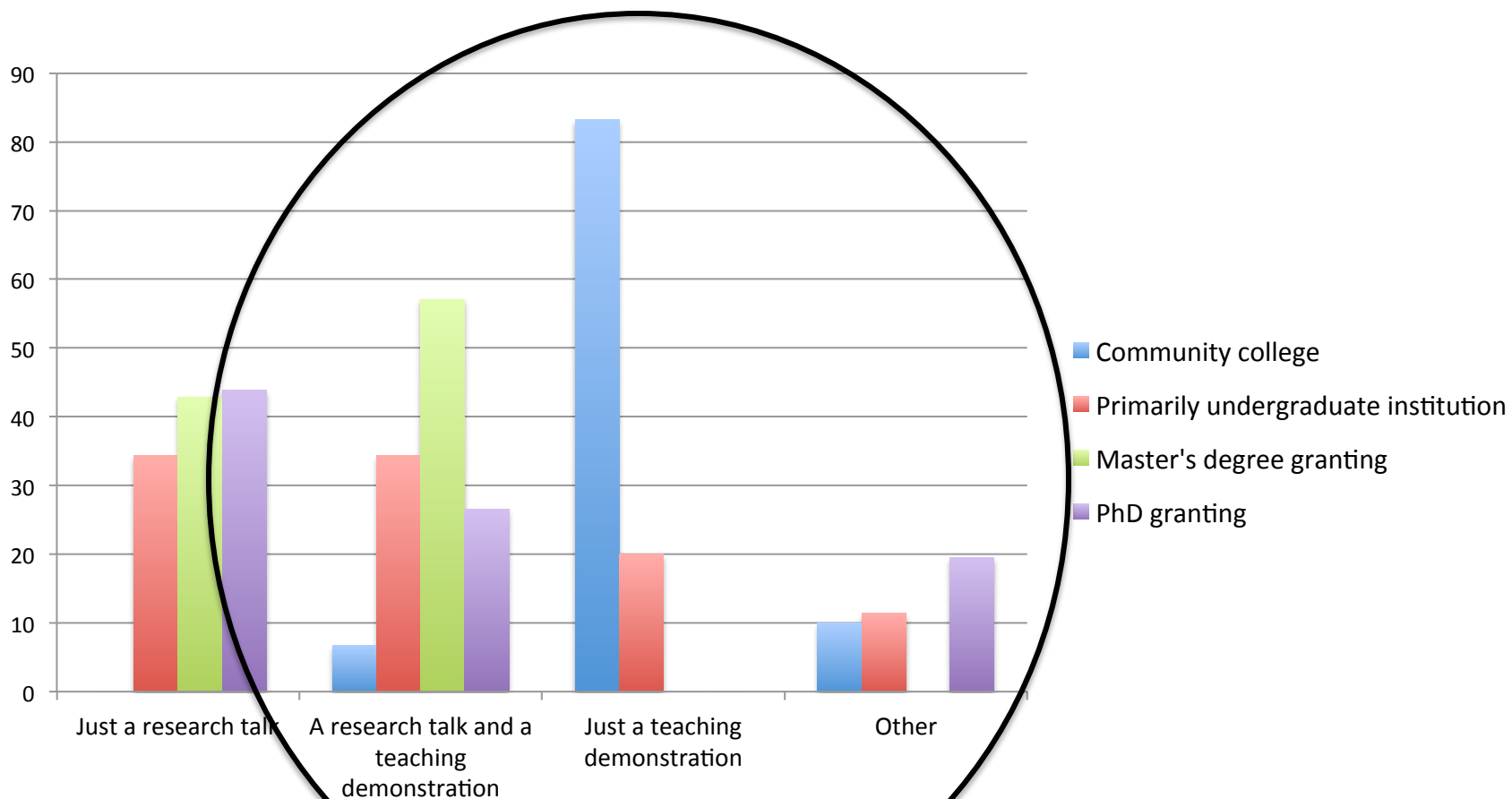
Requirements for job candidates (bio)





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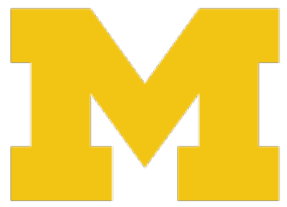


From Smith et al., 2013

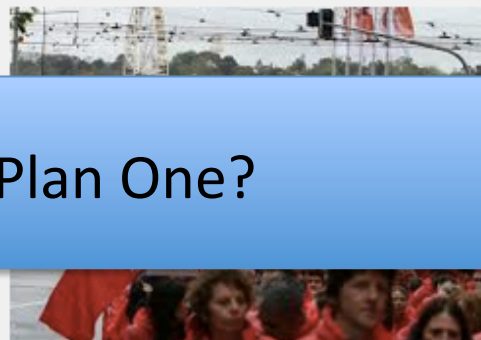
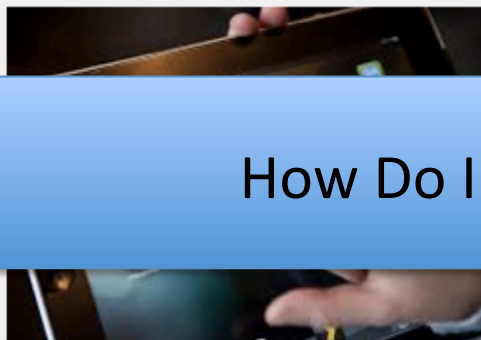
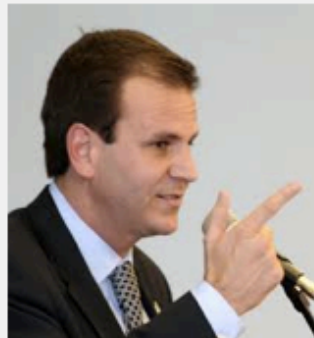
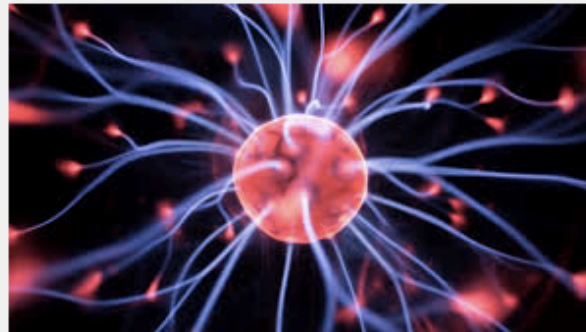
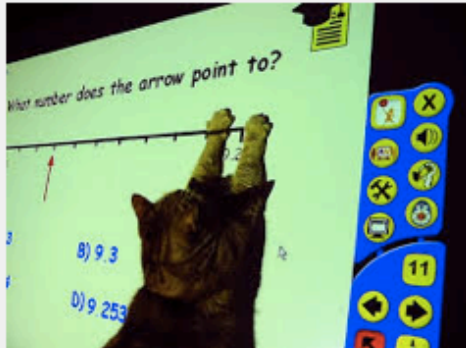
Top five elements of an effective teaching demo

- ① Content information is accurate
- ② Presentation will be understandable
- ③ Material organized effectively
- ④ Pitches at correct level for audience
- ⑤ Introduced in a way that connects to the audience (e.g., communicates relevance of topic, asks questions)

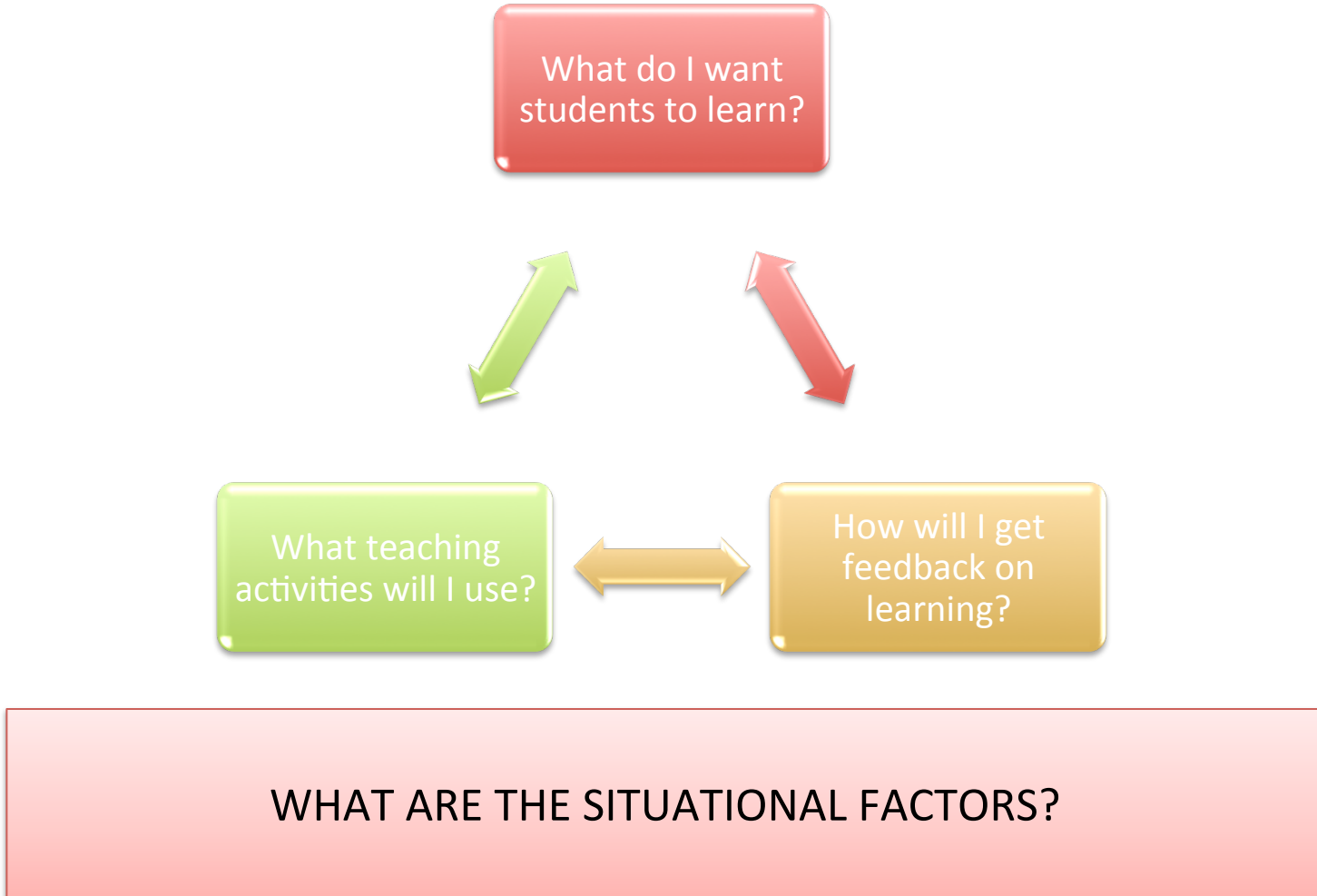
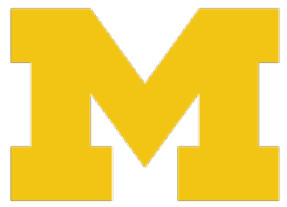
Elements of an outstanding demo: enthusiasm, passion for a topic, relaxed & confident manner, use of active learning



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How Do I Plan One?



How can I get feedback before I do it “for real”?

- Ask the search committee questions
- Ask to give a guest lesson in a U-M course
- Practice with people who can mimic the ‘audience’
 - Friends in other departments, undergraduates
- Request a CRLT consultation or observation in your class

Faculty Insights

- Catherine Fobes, Sociology and Women's Studies, Alma College
- Mary-Catherine Harrison, English, University of Detroit Mercy

Q&A

Wrap-Up & Focused Reflection: What would you plan if asked to prepare a teaching demonstration?

- Topic of your choice
- Introductory-level course in your field
- 25 students
- 30-minute class period



Additional Resources

- Papers discussing teaching demonstrations and active learning and classroom assessment techniques handouts available at:
<http://crlt.umich.edu/programs/onedayPFF>
- The Professor is In
How to Give a Teaching Demonstration
<http://theprofessorisin.com/2012/01/10/how-to-give-a-teaching-demonstration-a-guest-post/>
- CRLT website/GSI Guidebook
Strategies for Effective Lesson Planning
http://www.crlt.umich.edu/gsis/p2_5
- ACSAA Resources
A Guide to Preparing for Campus Visits
<http://www.acsaa.us/pdf/career/acsaacampusvisit.pdf>