

Talking About Your Work

This PDF offers, hints, tips and some activities to either print out and fill in or copy. We hope it's useful and gives you some practical advice to help you talk about your work.

Hints & Tips : At College

The college environment should be a safe space to experiment and explore ideas.

Your crit could be a place where you gather feedback and try things out before you have to go into a real work place.

Tip: Before going on work experience, envisage your tutors or classmates as a client or potential employer.

Tip: Develop strong relationships with your peer group that will support you in life after college.

Hints and Tips : Your Practice

You should be aware of your industry and your place within it without letting this dictate your work. Do research and have knowledge of comparative work and practitioners but maintain a sense of your own identity throughout this process.

Tip: Be prepared to talk about your work in any context at any moment – to go from 0 to 60 at the drop of a hat.

Hints and Tips : Employability

Find out lots of information about the place your going for an interview – show knowledge of the industry. Arrange your portfolio to appeal to the company you're going to an interview with and present it with a clear narrative.

Your portfolio is an extension of you - introduce yourself and your portfolio as one and let it back up the information your giving. Make sure it gives the right impression and that there are no loose pages!

Tip: Plan your portfolio to support each individual application or interview.

Tip: Don't use a portfolio of larger than A3 size and make sure it's all the same orientation – either landscape or portrait – not both.

Talking About Your Work – A Case Study

Using the section “A Case Study” consider the way you approach a conversation or presentation with your work.

Part 1 – Critique a case study

Critique Paron’s presentation in the section “A Case Study”. Give him marks out of ten for the following:

Introduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eye-contact	<input type="checkbox"/>
Narrative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Body language	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illustration	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarity of message	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>		

What is the key factor to the success or failure of Paron’s presentation?

Part 2 – Practice your own presentation

Practice presenting your own work – in front of a mirror, to friends, or even better with a video camera so you can watch it back. Think about what you liked from the case study and what you’d do differently. Rate yourself at the following:

Introduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eye-contact	<input type="checkbox"/>
Narrative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Body language	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illustration	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarity of message	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>		

What’s the key thing you need to improve on?

Ask your friends to help you improve the aspects of your presentation you’re least happy with.