



Think Science! Newsletter 5

Our final e-newsletter: Communicating

Welcome to our fifth and final newsletter for *Think Science! 2024*. Student teams should have completed their investigations by now and be thinking about ways in which to communicate their work as a short video. Videos are an engaging and effective way for sharing an investigation and, in Think Science, they are the method by which student investigations will be assessed. So it is important to get them right!

The information below may be useful in assisting you and your students with this important skill. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please email us at thinkscience@ansto.gov.au

Planning your video

The best videos are well planned before any filming is done. The videos for each age group in Think Science have a time limit – 4 minutes for primary teams and 5 minutes for secondary teams. To achieve these time frames, it is important that students plan what they are going to say, and what they are going to show. One of the best ways to do this is to use a storyboard to write notes on what information each section will cover, the visuals students will use and who will be speaking. There is a suggested [storyboard format](#) available on the Think Science web site that students can use. The video needs to show how the students' investigation covered all science inquiry skills.

To help students, we have provided some suggested timing for each stage of the video.

Think Science stage	Primary time allocation	Secondary time allocation
Questioning and predicting	30 seconds	1 minute 15 seconds
Planning and conducting	1 minute	1 minute 15 seconds
Processing and analysing	1 minute	45 seconds
Evaluating	1 minute	1 minute 30 seconds
Conclusion	30 seconds	15 seconds
Video Total time	4 minutes	5 minutes

Secondary students have been allocated more time for Questioning and predicting, and Evaluating, as they need to address relevant scientific concepts.



Lights, camera, action....

Once the students have planned their video, it is time to start recording. [Check out our short video for ideas on how to make a video.](#) **Note:** any video footage taken on mobile phones, tablets or similar devices must be either captured in landscape or converted to landscape.

Some dos and don'ts for successful videos

Here are some useful tips to help your students wow the judges with their interesting and engaging video presentation:

- Make sure the sound quality is good and the area for recording is quiet. If there is lots of unavoidable background noise, consider using a microphone.
- There should be only one person speaking at a time.
- When talking, speak to the camera because the camera represents the audience.
- Some information, such as a diagram, data or graphs need to take up a big space on the screen so they can be seen clearly. This is best done as a voice over and allow time for the audience to look at what is being shown.
- Don't make the video too busy with extra music or animations. A few may add to the entertainment value, but too many could be distracting.
- Make sure that the video is close to the time limit. Avoid speeding it up or slowing it down digitally – we will know!
- Students should use their own information and media - for example, use their own photos, videos, images, and results.
- Spend time editing the video. It can always be better!
- Don't leave it to the last day to make the video!

Remember: The video entries should clearly show the judges how students did each part of their investigation and what they found out.



Break out the popcorn, it's time to go to the movies!

Test the videos with an audience. Show them to the class, friends, teachers, or parents to get their feedback – they will tell you if there's anything that is difficult to understand, hear or see. Perhaps show the videos to your school as part of a National Science Week event.

If needed re-record the sections that are difficult to hear or see and correct any errors such as missing sections. To help do this, while watching the videos, students might like to use our video checklists for [Years 3-6](#) and [Years 7-10](#). Tick off all the ones they have included. Are there any missing? They may need to consider doing their video again.

You've finished – it's time to submit the video(s)...

A YouTube link for each video must be provided on the [online entry form](#). **The visibility setting for each video must be set to 'unlisted'** (not for public viewing, viewable only with your link). Before submitting, make sure the video link works on multiple computers. This means we are less likely to encounter problems with viewing student's videos. Don't leave it to the last day to submit entries! Allow extra time for any technical issues to be sorted.

Did you miss any of our e-newsletters?

If you missed any of the previous e-newsletters on each stage of the science inquiry process, they are all now available on our [Think Science 2024 web site](#).

We wish you and your students' success in our Think Science! 2024 Competition and hope that you found the investigation process enjoyable. Good luck.



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