

# Polishing Medical Students' Presentation Skills: a Curriculum

Alexandra Gomes, Tom Harrod and Anne Linton  
Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, The George Washington University

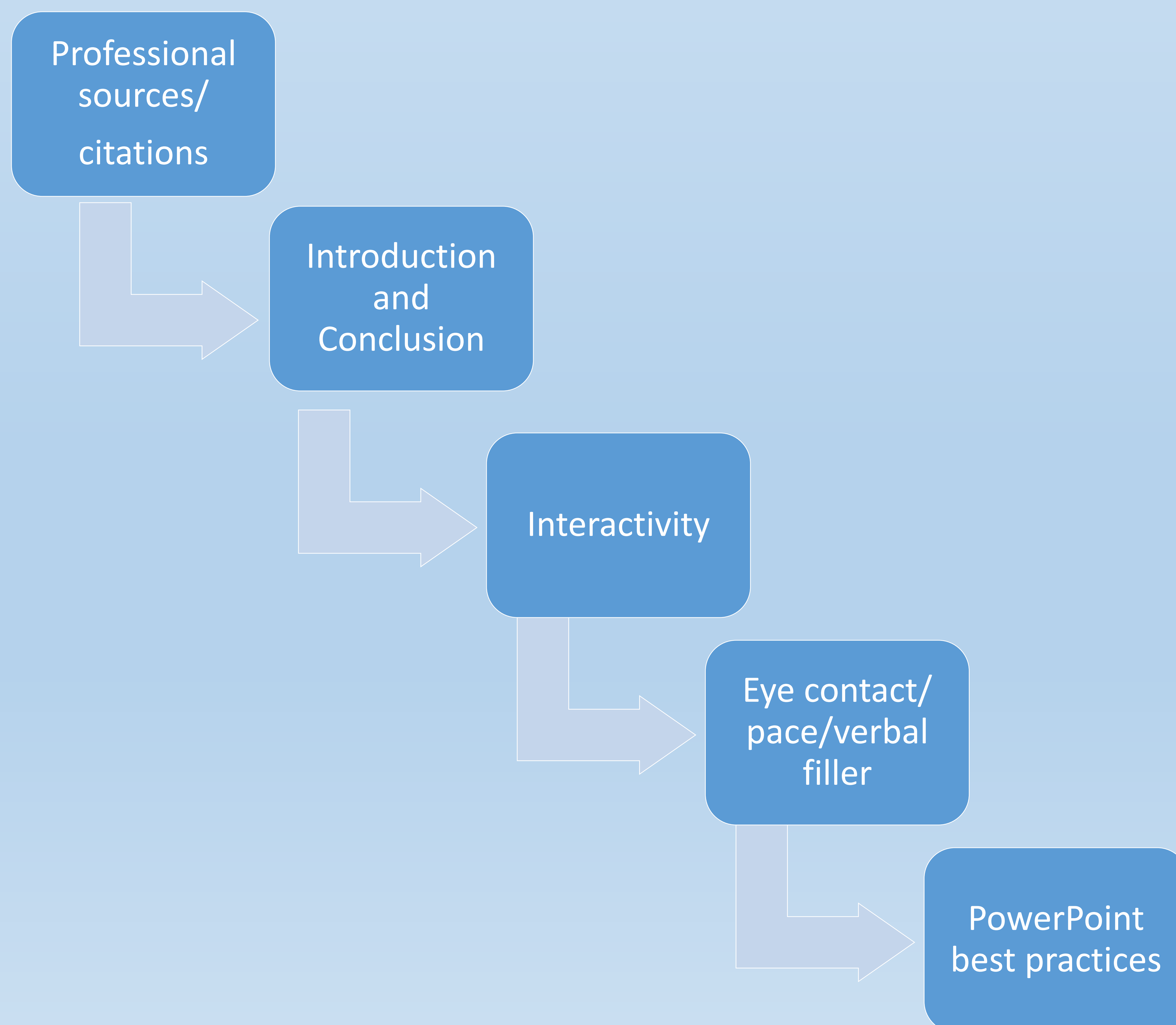


## Background

Presenting information to others is a large part of the medical profession, yet many students struggle with these skills. Responding to a curriculum committee's statement of need, Himmelfarb librarians developed a curriculum that introduces specific presentation skills over the first eighteen months of the pre-clinical years. The curriculum has been in place for four years.

## Description

- Formal curriculum with scaffolded skillsets which require continuing mastery of skills as new skills are added
- Integrated with required course (Clinical Integration Sessions in Practice of Medicine) that mandates regular presentations
- Individualized feedback from embedded small group librarian (22 small groups with 8-9 students per group)
- Five modules over 18 months

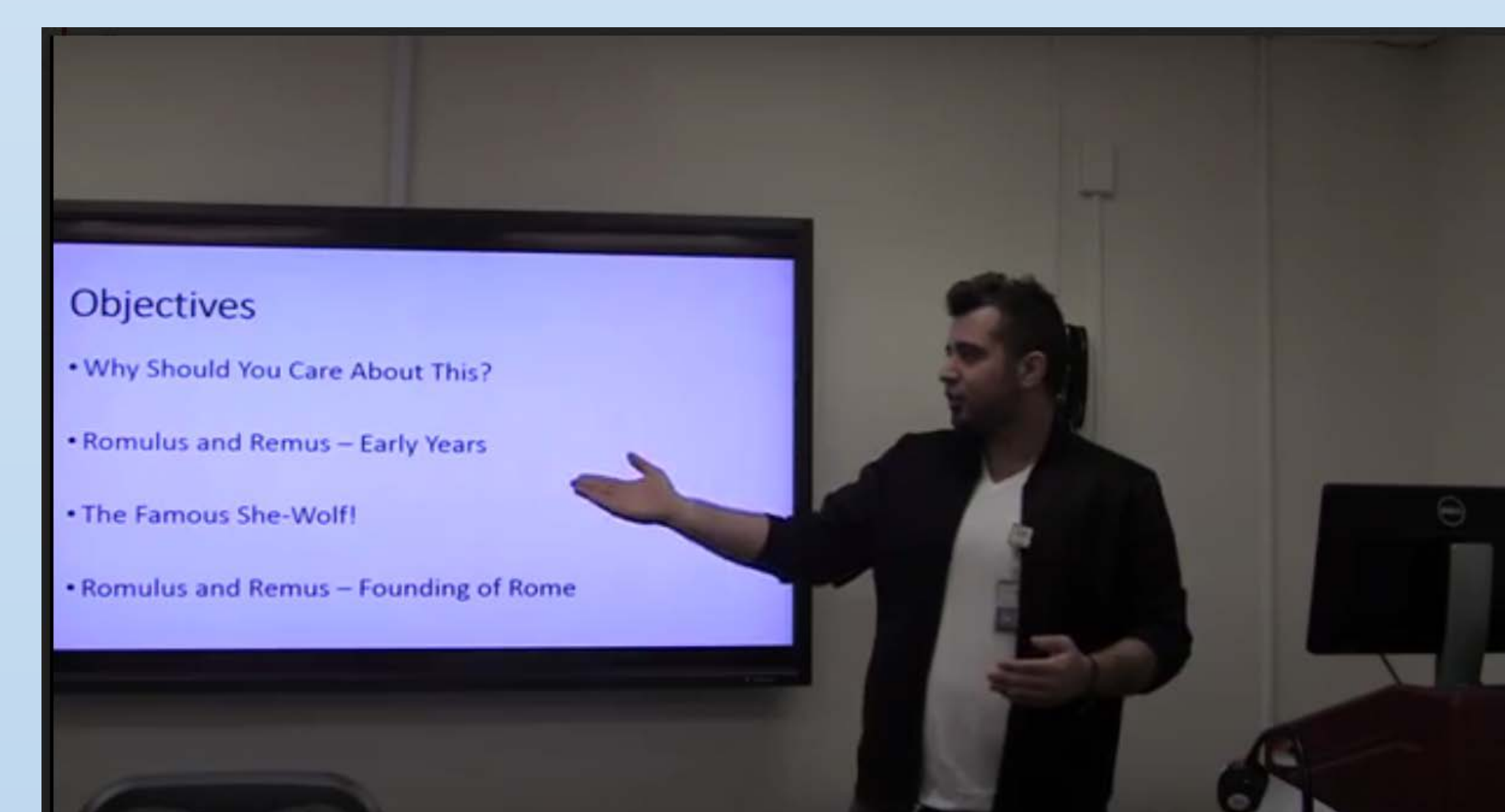


## Librarian Role

- Introduce presentation curriculum
- Introduce specific evaluation criteria and rationale
- Provide oral and/or written formative feedback on each presentation
- Provide summative feedback and formal grade on final presentation each semester
- Conduct wrap-up session at end of 18 month curriculum

## Challenges

- Initially, students often fail to appreciate the need for these skills as they focus solely on medical content
- Homogeneity of grading across multiple sections with different librarian graders
- Maintaining our place as competing educational goals crowd the curriculum



## Conclusions

### Student benefits

- Focus and practice of specific skills
- Timely feedback
- Increased efficiency in researching and crafting presentations
- Improved presentation skills (noted by clerkship directors on rotations)
- Appreciation for well-organized and delivered presentations

### Librarian benefits

- Opportunity to build relationships with students and faculty
- Reinforce availability of relevant professional information sources
- Occasion to teach about plagiarism