

Assessment Practice – Good Practice Example

Science Foundation Year

Student Choice of Assessed Research Topic and Methods

Teaching and learning context:

Assessed fieldwork practical

Level of study:

Year Zero

Student group:

Foundation Year Scientists

Assessment types:

A small element of the coursework portfolio is assessed via an open research and analysis task during a fieldwork trip. After working through a scaffolded booklet to provide guidance and support to build the skills needed, students are able to choose their own topic of research, method of sampling and the format of their results feedback, which they go on to present as a group to the rest of the cohort. To support less confident students, suggestions of topics are made, although they are encouraged to choose any topic of interest to them. As this is the first time they have encountered this type of assessment, the groups are provided with the marking rubric (below) to give them a clear knowledge of the aims and expectations of their work. The presentations are then peer-assessed, allowing for further reflection on the style and effectiveness of the different forms of data analysis chosen.

<i>Name of investigators:</i>	
Investigate the effect of a biotic or abiotic factor upon biodiversity	Achieved?
Title is clear and informative	
Factor is identified correctly as biotic or abiotic	
Method of measuring the biotic or abiotic factor is appropriate	
Method of measuring the abundance of a species is appropriate / ethical	
Sufficient data recorded	
Results displayed informatively / address the title	
Statistical analysis is appropriate and informative	
Conclusions drawn appropriately	
Limitations of the investigation considered e.g. validity (methods) / reliability	
Suggestions for future study discussed	
What went well:	
Even better if:	