Why should you set up a science blog?

(And how do you do it?)

Professor Stephen Curry
How to give a presentation...

Search on Google:
Youtube Curry Best Seminar
Q13: Outline of public engagement plans
(No more than 250 words)

PROS

‣ public engagement
‣ a growing duty: explain, account, insights
‣ impact (REF)
‣ write - say something

CONS

‣ frivolous? improper? embarrassing?
‣ what to say? navel-gazing?
‣ sustainable?
‣ time consuming?
Who is my audience? Network Questions...

I hate blogs, blogs, blogs
Posted by Stephen Currie

Attending the SciBlog 2011 conference...a nature network

Not the concept or the presentation that struck a chord that I recall, but rather the word itself. It's an interesting — and I'm serious about this — aspect of my experience, having grown up as a young man.

And yet, the call went out for me to attend this conference, that struck a chord that I recall, but rather the word itself. It's an interesting — and I'm serious about this — aspect of my experience, having grown up as a young man.

Home | About Stephen

Here is a Man Who Stood Up
Posted on March 4, 2011 by Stephen

In many ways Travis Bickle, the disturbed taxi driver in Scorsese's famous *Taxi Driver*, is a model of public engagement.

For one thing, he really thinks about his audience. He rehearses in front of a mirror so that he will be fully prepared for his encounters with the people he wants to reach. Legs apart, arms folded, his stance is confident — his body language is really very good.

Then, with the merest tilt of the head: “You talkin’ to me? You talkin’ to me?”

Scientist who uses X-rays to look at the structure of protein molecules. Wonders about the place of science in the world. Works at Imperial College but views expressed here are his own.

Recent Posts
- Here is a Man Who Stood Up
- The Perutz Effect
- Prize Your Imagination
- An Inconsistent Truth?
- Small and Very Far Away

Recent Comments
- Stephen on An Inconsistent Truth?
And why exactly? What do these numbers mean? It tells you how much detail you can expect to see in your electron density maps, the three-dimensional chicken-wire that we compute from the data to reveal the shape of our molecule.

Look!

And I have just this afternoon gazed upon the electron density map. And now you can see it too. It still looks like worms but this time they are knurled and knobbly; you can just about see that the molecule is constructed of tiny spheres. Atoms. In places, even the hydrogen atoms, each with just a single electron, can be seen protruding shyly from the density. In all my time as a crystallographer I have never seen a molecule in such glorious detail, and neither has anyone else in the lab. So today everyone is wandering around with smiles on their faces. And nobody is mentioning poo.

May affect your career
Affects other people too (group members)
How to set up a blog

Free and quick:

- http://wordpress.org/
- http://www.blogger.com/
- http://www.typepad.com/
- http://posterous.com/
- etc.
- ...but use an offline text editor (Textedit, MarsEdit)

If you're a bit more computer literate

- Register your own domain name (e.g. imascientist-film.org.uk)
- Set up a Wordpress or Moveable Type installation

Or ask to join a Network:

- Nature Network, Scienceblogs, Scientopia, Scientific American...etc.
How to run a blog

Be regular
   › What on earth am I going to say?

Promote yourself shamelessly
   › Twitter, Facebook, Google+
   › Finding hot topics

Handle comments with consideration
   › Anonymous comments?
   › Responding to your audience

Enjoy the freedom of the form
   › Be yourself & have fun
   › Explore other media - video (YouTube), audio (Audioboo)
What happens next...?

guardian.co.uk

We're not on a pedestal: peer review keeps scientists firmly grounded
We deal in theories and uncertainty - not egocentric preaching, say Stephen Curry and Bill Hanage

Stephen Curry and Bill Hanage
The Guardian, Thursday 11 February 2010
Article history

Simon Jenkins is dismayed by reports of the lax behaviour of some scientists on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the allegations of some stem cell researchers that their work is being held

the guardian

Science must be liberated from the paywalls of publishers
Research that is funded by the public should be freely available to all – a move to open access modes of publication is overdue

Stephen Curry
guardian.co.uk, Tuesday 10 April 2012 09:00 BST
Comments (…)

Science is Vital
We are a group of concerned scientists, engineers and supporters of science who are campaigning to prevent destructive levels of cuts to science funding in the UK.

Why science?
Investing in research enriches society and helps drive the economy. It led to our preeminent position in the 20th century, and will be vital in meeting the challenges of the 21st – whether they be in energy, medicine, infrastructure, computing, or simply humanity’s primal desire for discovery.

Dara O’Brian, the comedian with a degree in mathematical physics, says, "If I wasn’t on tour I would be protesting in London with my fellow science geeks at Science is Vital – because it seems a good time to remind the Government that this country won’t keep winning Nobel prizes if they start to cut Science Funding."

Sir Patrick Moore, CBE HonFRS FRAS, says, "If we cut funds for science we’ll be shooting ourselves in the foot... I support the Science Is Vital campaign 100%!"

About
Who we are, and what we’re doing

The Argument
Key points in the economic argument against cuts to science funding

The Petition
So far, 36,000 people have signed!
See all signatories.

Donate to the campaign
Please help to keep Science is Vital going. Every penny helps and we need your support!

Donate

Latest News
Signatures
Rally Report
Question time
Whose constituents signed the petition?
Signers
Blogging at work

Numb or Numbered?

Posted on April 14, 2011 by Stephen

It just doesn’t add up: why do so many people, including scientists, get stuck on the maths problem?

The subject is on my mind because it was raised at a departmental meeting last week where I tried to argue that A level mathematics (the qualification obtained at age 18 in the UK) should be an entry requirement for our degree programmes in biochemistry and biology. Given the increasingly quantitative nature of these subjects, I ventured, we need to be taking on students who are comfortable with maths.
Questions?