

Inviting the Community

Sample Presentation Outline

The following topics are suggested for your presentation:

1. (Slide 1) What are the benefits of studying science? Focus not just on pragmatic benefits (economic gain, employment) but also on ideas such as wonder, seeing the order and complexity of the world, seeking truth, exploring the riches of creation. Relate this to your own reasons for being drawn to science – what attracted you to this field and sustained your interest? Describe an example of something you learned through the sciences that expanded your vision of the world and fascinated you.
2. (Slide 2) What are you hoping and aiming for in terms of how students will grow during your science course? Include the obvious focus on gaining scientific understanding and the skills needed for scientific investigation, but communicate also a more holistic interest in student growth. Focus on opportunities for learning how to respect and relate well to others in the classroom, looking out for others' needs during learning, fostering wonder in place of cynicism, working at developing virtues such as humility and patience, growing in willingness to seek the truth rather than settling for easy answers, and seeing science learning as a chance to grow in faith as well as in knowledge.
3. (Slide 3) What are you hoping and aiming for in terms of how big and potentially controversial questions will be discussed in and out of class? Mention how faith and science questions can be a source of conflict and unloving communication, and focus on the call to love and honor one another even when we disagree. Point out how big questions can offer an opportunity to extend and test our faith as well as to learn how to interact graciously when we disagree.