



Pragmatic aspects of public speaking and their role in divulging geosciences

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There are many pragmatic aspects of communication that play a role in divulging geosciences orally to the public. Their knowledge and an acquaintance with the rules and the means to adequately handle them, may contribute to make the divulging activity much more effective. A scientific communicator who can effectively communicate and who can handle his public in a competent manner is relatively easy to recognize. Thus we have tried to isolate the fundamental elements that must be present to have an effective communication. The most important characteristics of such elements have been then outlined. Finally, some exercises have been identified to train each of the fundamental element that has been isolated, so improving the communication performances of an individual. The exercises and the accompanying theory have been then structured in a training course lasting about 20 hours. Such a course has been proposed to the members of the Professional Association of Engineers (FOIT) of the Province of Turin, as part of the didactic offer for the lifelong training required by law. The course has been particularly appreciated by the public. It was delivered for the first time in 2015 and is now arrived at its fifth edition. Participants have almost invariably shown their appreciation for the received teachings and the exercises they have performed. Many participants have declared to have reached abilities that allow them to display better and more effective communication performances. The course and the proposed exercises may constitute a future reference for the improvement of the divulging abilities in geoscience.