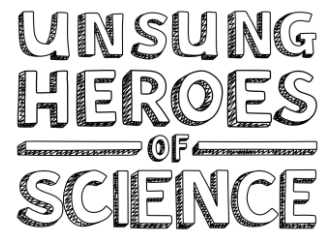


Ten-minute class activity



Watching Critically

Learning objectives

- Learn about a lesser-known scientist, who may not feature in the usual textbooks and stories, but could be an inspiration to pupils
- Critically analyse a short video for content, audience and style

Context

This activity picks just one video from the set. It could be regularly repeated in form time or at the start / end of a lesson. The core activity is designed to fit into ten minutes, but it could easily be extended to fill more time.

These videos were made by 16-18-year-olds, and we have not edited them in any way. Are they good videos?

Resources

- There is a set of optional PowerPoint slides to go with this activity
- There is an optional worksheet ('Question worksheet – Watching Critically') to go with this activity
- The videos are available at www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/unsungscience/videos

Activity

- Go to www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/unsungscience/videos
- As a group, choose one video to watch
- Watch the video.
 - You will probably want to make it full screen using the button at the bottom right of the video.
 - The videos all have subtitles, which you can turn on if you want.
- Having watched the video, as a group, answer or discuss the following questions:
 - What did you learn from the video?
 - Choose one (or more) of the following topics:
 1. Reliability
 - Is this video a good source of information?
 - Who was it made by? Do they have an agenda?
 - What are its sources?
 - How can you know if it is accurate?
 2. Audience
 - Who do you think the video is aimed at?
 - What is it about the video that makes you say that?
 - The audience is supposed to be 12-13-year-olds. Do you think the video is suitable for them? Why / why not?
 3. Videography
 - What did you like about the video? How would you improve the video? Think about:

- Audio?
 - Visuals? Effects?
 - Storyline? Is there anything they missed? Is there anything you'd skip?
 - Tone?
 - Food for thought: Imagine you are a film producer and someone sent you this as a proposal for a feature film biopic. Would you commission the film? Why / why not?
-
- You might not get through all these questions, but if you are having a good discussion about one of them, that's fine! Maybe use some of the other questions first next time to change it around.
 - You might want to show the video again during the discussion, to see if people agree / disagree or pick up on new / different things

You can repeat this activity for each of the videos over time.

Beyond the activity

- Try applying this critical approach to other videos or films.
- Check out 'How to Read a Film' by James Monaco