

Course 1: The Strategic Postdoc

Module 2: Applying for and Choosing the Right Postdoc

Session 3: Preparing for the Interview Process

Activity 3.2: Getting Feedback on Your Practice Talk

Directions:

1. **STEP 1:** Reflect on who is in your circle of support and which mentors or colleagues would be able to provide the most relevant feedback on your postdoc job talk.
2. **STEP 2:** Coordinate to practice your talk with a mentor (e.g., research advisor, peer).
3. **STEP 3:** Review the “[Research Talk Feedback Guide](#)” and think about what areas you would like your mentor to focus on when providing feedback. Are there areas of your talk that you feel you need more help with? Which are they? Remember that you can ask different mentors for different types of feedback. For example, you might ask your thesis advisor for feedback on how you are presenting data and figures. On the other hand, you might ask a peer graduate student who is not in your lab if you provided the right amount of background for them to understand the significance of your research.
4. **STEP 4:** Before you give your practice talk, provide your mentor with the “[Research Talk Feedback Guide](#)” and include the answers to the questions in **STEP 3**.

FEEDBACK TIP! If you are preparing for a specific interview, share a copy of your application package and the postdoc description to your mentor. This will help guide the discussion questions and focus feedback towards the specific job opportunity. If the mentor asks, share a draft of the outline and/or slides. It'll be easier for your mentor to provide specific feedback if they have these at hand.