

Cases for Teaching Responsible Communication of Science

The opinionated scientist: Actual communication choices & outcomes

Do not share with students until after completing the case study activity.

Some of the specifics of the case were fictionalized to protect the identity of the young scientist.

What choice did the young professor make? The young professor stopped blogging and gave the site to a non-academic colleague to continue the discussion. The threat of losing his academic job from being blacklisted from federal funding was too severe for him to risk. While other interviewees agreed with his decision, the young professor remains conflicted and the situation has only increased his belief in the need for young scientists to engage with policy questions where their expertise gives them a privileged understanding on the issue. He plans to return to blogging in the future, likely after tenure.