Film: developing a new resource for teaching undergraduate biometry

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A 15 min pilot video made by the speaker became a valuable teaching tool in a large biometry course (STAT2701) in the School of Agriculture and Food Science at the University of Queensland.

This video was motivated by the need to bring the relevance of experimental design and analysis into a large class of undergraduates who had little experience of research or experimentation. It aimed to bring the field, glasshouse and paddock into the lecture theatre.

The video covered biological variation as the background to biometry and its important use in experimental design. A script was developed for the filming of experiments in the research fields and glasshouses. Researchers and graduate students assisted in production.

Students appreciated the value of biometry as a relevant tool to assist them in meaningful scientific research. The final cut incorporated student and tutor feedback.

The success of this has led to another project in 2013 involving students participating in the visualisation of concepts in biometry and two more films under production.