



# Connecting Learning in University Classrooms and Science Centres with Perceptual Illusions

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Perceptual illusions (the experience of perceiving something that is not real) are often used in university teaching to increase students' curiosity in psychology and neuroscience. Perceptual illusions are also frequently curated in science centres for informal education in lay audiences across ages in science. Despite being widely used and anecdotally effective in engagement, teaching with perceptual illusions in formal and informal settings often runs in parallel with little overlap. This presentation presents the observations and reflections of an exploratory class project that bridges this gap: students enrolled in Perception class (200-level) engage in semester-long learning activities to curate resources on the science of perceptual illusions for a local science centre. Drawing inspiration from the Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle and high-impact practices in higher education (Schwartz & Miller, 2020), students engage in structured learning activities such as visiting the science centre, reflecting on the visit, a guest lecture by the community partner, iterating with peers and the instructor, and presenting their products to the university community.

## References

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