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Off with the training wheels: Student centered approach to lab work.

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Do you remember those labs in college when you just followed your teacher's instructions? You probably barely do right? In order to increase students' involvement in the scientific process (and to increase motivation), I tried a different approach. I trained them to become autonomous researchers. At first, I gave them detailed instructions and complete theoretical framework. Then gradually, I moved to providing them only with the goal of the experiment. They had to research the theoretical aspects and decide how to take the measures. At last, they were asked to come up with their own research project, conduct their experiment and share their results.

This presentation will cover every step of the training from the documentation provided to students to typical research projects, with an emphasis on the time and amount of work required (from both teacher and students).

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