

Testimonials from Students and Educators

Evolution will never be fully accepted by the general public until it is communicated through the popular media. I have seen Baba Brinkman perform his rap guide to evolution and was impressed both by its entertainment value and its educational value. Baba wasn't just rapping about evolution in a superficial way, but in a way that made the audience "get" what evolution is and why it matters for their deepest concerns. One hour of Baba is worth a dozen lectures.

David Sloan Wilson
Distinguished Professor of Biology and Anthropology,
Binghamton University
Author of *Evolution for Everyone*

Wow, what can I say? Watching Baba perform at Binghamton High School was amazing! Before Baba came to my school I hated science with a passion; it would just annoy me, mainly because I didn't get the subjects that were being taught. But when Baba came he made it fun and interesting. We all enjoyed it! Music changes everything. To hear the learning in the music makes things 10 times easier! Just wanna say thank you Baba for helping me realize how easy science could be! :)

Kadeidra Austin, 15
Binghamton Public High School

In my art and science class we watched videos of Baba Brinkman and many of my students attended the performance. Baba captures the students' attention! He distills complex concepts in a fresh way and made students think about evolution from a different viewpoint (or made them think about it for the first time). He embodies the art-science collaboration.

Elaine R. Reynolds
Associate Professor of Biology and Neuroscience
Lafayette College

To be certain, Baba Brinkman is on to something – his art provides an extremely smart and entertaining means of engaging the public (and certainly college students) with the science of evolutionary biology, a valuable teaching tool that brings art to science like no other performer I've ever experienced.

Here is what some of my students had to say...

"Grounded firmly in evolutionary principles yet uniquely modern. I thought it was great!"

"He had an explosive way of rapping that was similar to the rap artist Eminem that helped him to get his views across to the audience in a fun and up-beat way"

"Awesome!!"

Go see Baba Brinkman – better yet – take your science class to see him!

Rick Zechman
Professor of Evolutionary Biology
Biology Dept Head
California State University, Fresno

Baba Brinkman entertains, informs, inspires. His reputation preceded him as he returned to our high school for a second year. The students were engaged in call-and-response and questioned themselves about their basic understanding of the Theory of Evolution. The duality of his craft as an accomplished hip-hop artist alongside his eclectic content delivers an accessible academic program for young adults that is distinctly unique.

Nancy Marshall,
Parent and PTO Board Member
Lincoln-Sudbury High School
Lincoln, MA

A remarkable feast of music, poetry and science, rarely seen in the entertainment industry or in academia. The show made my students aware of the science, the history and the current debates around evolution. I hope he will continue and make the content of his show available in different forms for a very broad of potential audience in schools, universities and public arena.

Marcello Costa FAA,
Professor of Neurophysiology
Flinders University
Adelaide, Australia

The students got the jokes, appreciated the irony and were caught up by Baba's passion. Since that day, the students' online discussion boards have been flooded with posts about evolution and creationism, about rap and street culture. My best hopes were realized; Baba made our students really think. They realized

that science really can be fascinating, challenging and genuinely stimulating – just as we've been trying to tell them for years....Great stuff!

Professor Simon Brookes
Dept Head, Human Physiology
Flinders University
Adelaide, Australia

The audience was made up of both teaching staff and students, and everyone got a lot out of it. I got many comments from staff like "In 2 minutes he covered a subject that takes me 4 lectures. And he did it better!" The students also had lots of really positive comments – particularly relating to the way Baba covered so much material so quickly and so clearly, and with such energy. It was really fun as well as instructive.

Dave Rowell
Associate Dean of Science
Evolution, Ecology and Genetics
Australia National University

In a part of the country where people yell, "It's Socialist!" or "It's Creationist!" it brought a smile to many educators faces to hear students shouting, "I'm an evolutionist!" Baba Brinkman's rapid-fire rap about evolution, which includes student participation, engaged our students. They listened and responded. Discussions afterwards covered rhetoric and persuasion as well as science. He opens doors to learning.

Michael Ronan,
Instructor
Houston Community College

Baba performed his Rap Guide to Evolution to S5 and S6 pupils (17-18 yrs) and staff at George Watson's College in Edinburgh last August. Our pupils found the show highly informative and it built upon their previous knowledge of Evolution especially in the Natural and Artificial Selection sections. The S5 pupils were much more aware and enthusiastic about the section covering evolution in the higher course from seeing Baba's show. It was one of the most creative lessons in Biology that I have witnessed in my 27 years of teaching.

Isy Pyper, Senior Biology Teacher
George Watson's College
Edinburgh, Scotland

Baba Brinkman is a master teacher and performer. In addition, his generosity to individual students in master classes infused their projects with new energy and professionalism. Lafayette is dedicated to interdisciplinarity, to problem-based learning, and to hands-on experimentation, and Baba is a poster-child for the kind of student we hope to create. It doesn't hurt that he interacts like a cool pro with students, and they talk about his work long after he's gone to the next gig. The buzz in intellectual circles this year is "the future of science is ART." Baba embodies that buzz.

Dr. Suzanne Westfall
Head, English/Theatre
Lafayette College

Throughout the entire night, Baba continued to take some of the most lyrically potent rap songs and completely recontextualize them, discussing the themes in an evolutionary light. It was a potent blend of information and entertainment.

Ian Michna,
Biology Student
SUNY New Paltz

Baba Brinkman's performance of the 'Rap Guide to Evolution' was an entertaining and unusual method of explaining Darwin's theories and his legacy. Brinkman is a relentlessly engaging performer and the girls' (and staff) enjoyment of his clever antics was manifest. Certainly, the girls found it an exciting and informative experience and spoke of the performance for a number of days afterwards.

Claire McShane
English Department Head
Kilgraston Catholic Girls' School
Perth, Scotland

Baba Brinkman electrifies audiences, students and adults alike. My Freshmen and Sophomore college students returned to the classroom invigorated by what they heard and learned, a new spirit of critical inquiry ensured. Kudos to his work! I've brought him twice to the U.S. and thrice to the summer program in Cambridge in which I teach. Always a pleasure and a great success!

Sincerely,
Professor Michael Sofranko
Houston Community College

Baba Brinkman's Rap Guide to Evolution left our Biology 11 and 12 students riveted and profoundly entertained. This one-man show had the power and frills of a multi-person production, made all the more compelling for its stirring content and relatable comparisons to pop culture. In short, the Rap Guide to Evolution is an unbeatable lesson for Science classes and audiences of all kinds. I can't think of a more valuable, enlightening and seriously fun experience for my students.

Sandra Gin
English Dept Head
McNair Secondary School
Richmond, BC

The students really enjoyed the workshops and performance by Baba Brinkman. Students saw the science of Darwin in a different light and were chanting the 'rewind' rap for days after. Students that undertook the 'how to rap' workshop told me afterwards that they felt that they got a lot out of it and that they felt that Baba had allowed them to find a way to be able to communicate difficult things like evolution. I do believe that Baba had a positive impact on their impression on Science and they fondly talk of the performance still.

John Campbell
Academy Director
The Langley Academy
Slough, England