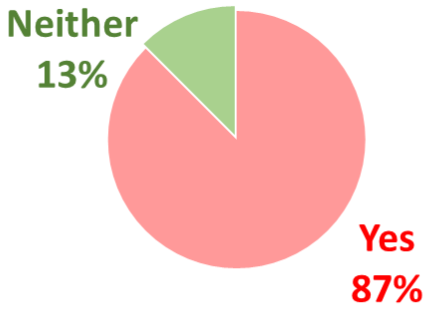
School-visit Tokyo Metropolitan Nishi High School

Visit location: Tokyo Metropolitan Nishi High School
Day of visit: July 16th, 2016 (Saturday)
Visitors: Ayako Tamaki, Kentaro Akiyama
Target people: 16 high school students

Objective

The goal of this lecture was to enhance students' interest in iGEM through the explanation of the possibility of genetic modification, gene recombination techniques, and synthetic biology. The other goal of this lecture was to get feedback from high school students on our project. In the lecture, we focused on the explanation of our project at the time.

Results



Are you interested in synthetic biology?

<What students want to do with genetic modification>

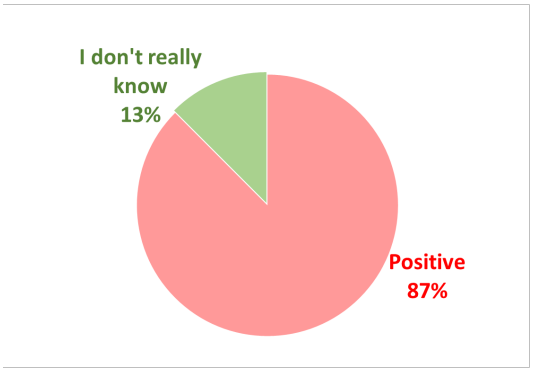
Make delicious celery

Solve genetic problems of modified organisms, medicine, and energy

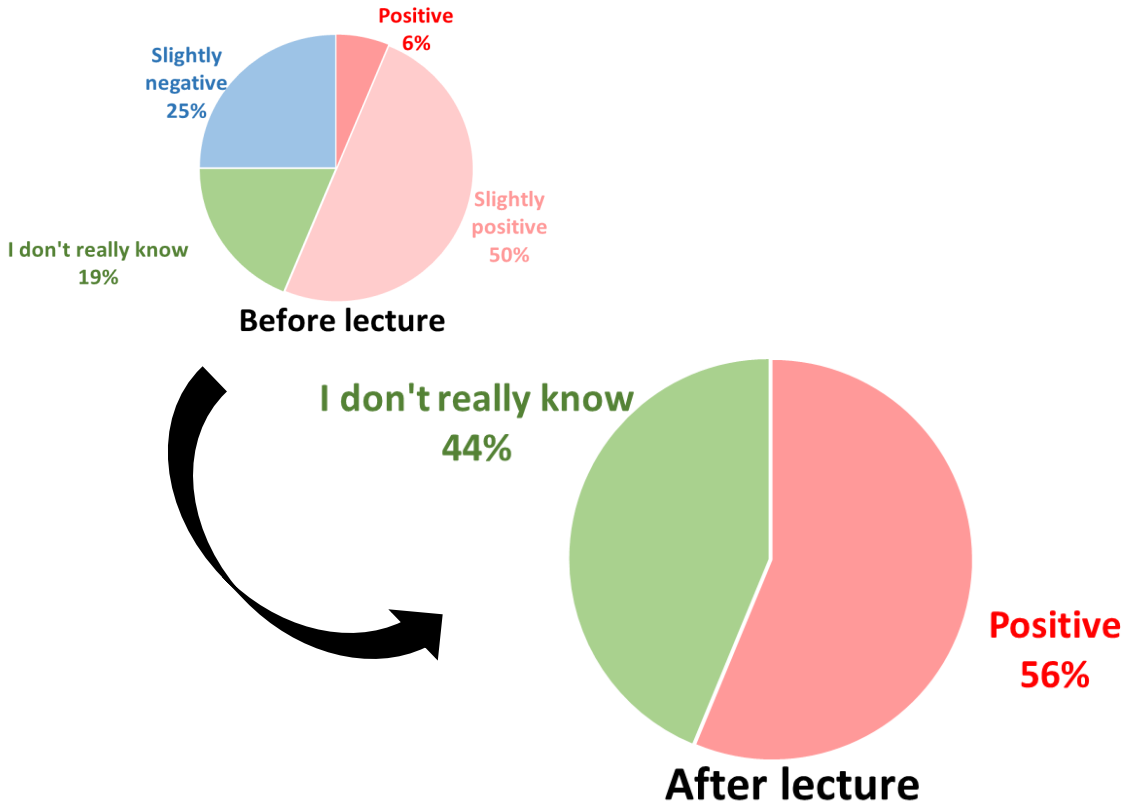
Recreate ancient organisms

Cure intellectual disability

Represent some stories with *E. coli*



What kind of image do you have on E. coli which uses for gene recombination?



What kind of image do you have on gene recombination?

Before the lecture

Positive: Genetic modification enriches our lives (GMO and medicine)
Slightly positive: Genetic modification can do various research, lighten farmers' burden, but I feel a little resistance to gene recombination
Neither: There exit both merits and demerits
Slightly negative: Genetic modification disrupt our ecosystem, and have harmful effects on domestic ecosystem

After the lecture

Positive: I understood genetic modification is useful in various fields, and it can solve a lot of problems in the world. This lecture changed the bad image on it.
Neither: I already knew about genetic modification. My answer depends on how it is used.

Summary

A student's opinion given in the lecture made us think deeply. He said that our project was "interesting," but how can it be applied to the society? This showed that students had a good impression on representing Snow White. However, to them "the final goal" was unclear, so they couldn't find out the value of our research. This means that though the public feel familiar with our project because we decided to represent Snow White, they wouldn't accept it unless it shows potential in future development. We took this opinion to heart and decided to reflect it in our project. Our project used TA system to control the production of protein. And we thought how could our project lead to any useful techniques We would like to discuss the future prospect of our project with experts and develop our project to make it contribute to the society in the future.