

Presentations in a Thinking Environment

Training Objectives

Underpinned by the 10 components of Nancy Kline's Thinking Environment™, participants in this half-day training session will...

- Consider their own experience of presenting to date – good, bad or ugly.
- Appreciate the importance of connecting with their audience.
- Create the right environment for their audience to think well
- Understand the limitations of power point
- Be more confident, through practice, in their ability to present with authenticity, humility and passion.

Who is the training most suited to people who...

- Recognise the importance of communicating their ideas well
- Want their audience to think well about what has been presented
- Appreciate the value of being authentic and passionate and humble in their leadership.
- Want to take the first steps to overcoming their fear of public speaking, in a safe and supportive environment.

Overview of the Training

This highly practical session will allow participants to think for themselves about what presenting well means for them and their audience. They will have the opportunity to consider the components and purpose of an excellent presentation and importantly how to connect with their audience. Participants will leave having delivered two short (less than 5 mins) presentations on areas of challenge and passion and receive appreciation from a small audience.

Approach

Your trainers, Dr Susy Stirling and Dr Tim Williams are both Time to Think Coaches and have considerable experience of creating Thinking Environments™. In recognition of the significant barriers for some, they will create a safe and easeful environment for people to explore and expand their presentation skills. The session will be engaging, encouraging, insightful and fun!

What do you need to prepare:

For this workshop you will need to prepare two mini-presentations:

One on something you found challenging (2 minutes)

And one on something you are passionate about (5 minutes)

What will today cover? This workshop will look at the 'why' of presenting.

The objective of a presentation is to get your audience to think. We need to create an environment where thinking is optimal. This means contemplating your audience as much as what you are going to say and how you are going to say it.

Presentations means any meeting or situation where you are aiming to convince, influence, convey ideas, share experience, negotiate etc – ie not just speaking to a large group from a conference podium. The key question is how do you bring people with you?

The 'what' and 'how' of presenting are covered extensively elsewhere, for example:

<https://unknown.toexpert.com/public-speaking/top-5-tedtalks-give-great-ted-talk/>

https://www.ted.com/talks/chris_anderson_teds_secret_to_great_public_speaking?language=en

https://www.ted.com/talks/julian_treasure_how_to_speak_so_that_people_want_to_listen

There are many more digests of TED top tips.

Plenty books as well – recent publications include *How to Own the Room: Women and the art of brilliant speaking*, Viv Groskop; *You Talkin to Me?: Rhetoric from Aristotle to Obama*, Sam Leith.

Areas of preparation to think about before any sort of presentation

(we won't be covering these but these are top tips you may want to consider before a presentation):

- **Your level of confidence** – speaking is a confidence trick. If you are uncomfortable so will your audience be. Coaching is a perfect place to work on this.
- **Your level of authenticity** – don't be someone you are not when you are presenting. Your audience will be able to tell and there ends your credibility. Know what your own tone, pace, style sounds like (record yourself) – is this what you are aiming for? Get feedback from a critical friend.
- **Your level of appropriateness** – know your audience. If you are hoping to persuade, this includes their current perspective on what you are proposing, and where you would like to move them to. Know the arguments most likely to appeal to them. Discuss this with a mentor or educational supervisor.
- **Brevity** – focus what you want to say, you'll have competition for anyone's attention. Make it engaging (start with a story, hook them in) and present memorable points (3 clear strong ones better than 14 vague weak ones).
- **Any tech you wish to use** – get there early, have your presentation pre-loaded if you have one, know how to turn the system back on again if it goes into sleep mode etc

In summary: prepare! – to sound impromptu, rehearse, rehearse, rehearse!