Module 9 was about our possible communication with the many forms of media.

*Module 10 takes communication one step further – into meetings, facilitations and possible presentations.*

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**Module 10**  
Facilitation and Presentation Skills
Objectives

- Recognize the power and potential for influence through verbal and nonverbal communication.
- Learn techniques to enhance the effectiveness of meetings.
- Demonstrate keys to effective formal or informal presentations.

Effective Communication

...happens when the intended audience receives the intended message from a speaker who is present or can otherwise be seen and heard.
Believability of Our Communication

- **Verbal** (spoken words) = 7%
- **Vocalics** (e.g., tone, pitch, volume, speed of voice) = 38%
- **Nonverbal** (facial expressions, gestures, posture, eye contact) = 55%
If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be ‘meetings.’

Dave Barry

How can you make your meetings more effective?
Conducting Effective Meetings

1. Determine the purpose of the meeting.
2. Plan and conduct the meeting in accordance with the purpose.
3. Follow through and follow up.

Planning the Meeting In Advance

**Why** is the meeting being held?

*The need, purpose, and objectives of the meeting should be clear before the meeting is scheduled, even if it is with just one other person.*
Planning the Meeting In Advance

**What** type of meeting is necessary?

- Meetings to Inform
- Meetings to Discuss
- Meetings to Decide
- Meetings to Solve
- Meetings to Invent
- Meetings to Sell
- Meetings to Meet

Planning the Meeting In Advance

**How** will the meeting be conducted?

- Where will the meeting be held? This location may be physical or virtual.
- When will the meeting be held? Is it urgent? Should it be tied to other events?
- How will the meeting be implemented? What is the appropriate format?
- Am I prepared?
- Do I know how to meet the meeting goals?
- Can I hold a respectful and effective meeting?
Tips for Effective Meetings

During the meeting, it is important to:

- Take notes and record minutes.
- Stay on point.
- Always have an agenda, whether the meeting is formal or not. Have an agenda printed for everyone even if the meeting is more general and flexible in nature.
- Use a “parking lot” if necessary (flip chart or white board to record important, but off-topic comments/questions for follow-up later). Many meetings get off task because “tangents” are allowed.

Tips for Effective Meetings

During the meeting, it is important to:

- Be respectful by keeping the meeting orderly (not allowing interruption of others, protecting opposing viewpoints, and seeking input from everyone—including the quieter attendees).
- Record and restate action items and assignments at the end of the meeting.
Tips for Effective Meetings

During the meeting, it is important to:

- Be clear about what should happen next. This should be in alignment with the purpose for the meeting.
- End on time. Set an expectation that your meetings end when you say they will end.

Tips for Effective Meetings

After the meeting, it is important to:

- Follow up.
- Make sure the effort and time invested in the meeting are not wasted.
- Share the minutes and notes and remind attendees of their action items.
- Restate the purpose and objectives of the meeting and mention whether they were accomplished.
Management's job is to convey leadership's message in a compelling and inspiring way. Not just in meetings, but also by example.

Jeffrey Gitomer
We must remember that the purpose and goal of the presentation determine how the information should be delivered.

The true questions every presenter should start with are:

What does the audience need to know?
AND
What is the best way to communicate that message to ensure audience understanding?
Presentations Are More Than PowerPoint

- Conversation?
- Lecture?
- White Board?
- Static visuals?
- Graphics?
- Charts?

- Dynamic visuals?
  - Video?
  - PowerPoint?
  - Keynote?
  - Prezi?

- Set clear, realistic goals.
- Anticipate resistance.
- Find some common ground.
- Be honest.
- Stay calm.
20 Habits of Truly Brilliant Presenters

Maurice DeCastro, Author
Founder of Mindful Presenter for GoToMeeting Resource Center

Habit 1: Acknowledge and reframe.

Anxiety
- Mental reaction
- Physical reaction
- Give it a name—feeling
Habit 2: Focus on the audience.

My audience needs to:
- Hear what I’m saying
- Understand what I’m saying
- Feel a certain way
- Act in a certain direction

Habit 3: Don’t try to be perfect.

A goal of perfection
- Is unreasonable
- Creates more anxiety
- Makes it more difficult to connect with the audience
Habit 4: Stick to the point.

- What do they need to know?
- Less is always more.
- 10-20-30 RULE

Habit 5: See the opportunity.

- Opportunity for them
- Opportunity for you
Habit 6: Anchor yourself.

- Know your purpose.
- Be assured of your preparation.
- Remain grounded.

Habit 7: Practice

“Practice your presentation until you’re sick of it. Then practice it more.”
--Guy Kawasaki
Habit 8: Tell stories.

People do not need a list of facts.
Even if you have facts listed on the handout or PowerPoint, tell stories.
Provide examples, situations, and happenings that illustrate your point.
That is what people will remember.

Habit 9: Use colorful, creative, and compelling images.

Images move through a different part of the brain than words, and they cause a faster and stronger reaction than words.
So, use great images that cause reactions.

Create a compelling graph, a simple image, a strong single message, and people will remember long after you have presented.
Habit 10: Involve the audience.

Audiences today need to be engaged.
They need to be kept involved,
or they will not be engaged during and after the presentation.
They also will not remember what was said.

Name some examples.

Habit 11: Use videos and props.

Again, videos and props
use a different part of the brain to process.
It is important to increase the probability that people
will remember your points.

Name some examples.
Habit 12: Use your voice.

- Tone
- Pitch
- Volume
- Rate/speed
- Pauses

Habit 13: Stay in the present.

- Always make eye contact with audience members.
- Do not stare at the ceiling or walls or out the windows.
- Do not keep checking your watch or phone.
- Walk about, including getting closer to the audience.
- Do not read your notes.
**Habit 14: Know how to make friends.**

- See your audience as potential friends.
- Find common interests.
- Tell great stories.
- Smile and empathize.
- Listen.
- Add value.

**Habit 15: Know your stuff.**

- Knowing your content makes your credibility real.
- Be prepared so you do not read notes or PowerPoint.
- Knowledgeable presenters are respected.
- People will be drawn to your stories and experience, not your opinion.
Habit 16: Be consistent.

- Present the same way you have conversations with friends.
- Do not become “another person” when presenting.
- Know your entire presentation.
- Use time wisely. Do not rush at the end or end early because you spoke too fast.

Habit 17: Be generous.

Think about your audience. Again, it’s not about you. It’s about them.
Habit 18: Help them see the contrast.

- Problem/solution
- Need/fulfillment
- Old/new
- Ineffective/effective

Habit 19: Give them a good reason.

- Making the case for your idea or decision is your responsibility.
- Don’t blame the audience for a lack of action or buy-in.
- Why would someone want to see it your way?
Habit 20: Give them hope.

The great presenters know how to put themselves in their audience’s shoes and think carefully about everything they may hope for.

Then, they demonstrate their understanding by providing that hope in the context of their presentation.

Handling a Tough Crowd

- Set clear, realistic goals.
- Anticipate resistance.
- Find some common ground.
- Be honest.
- Stay calm.
Group Facilitation

- A facilitator is not the seat of all knowledge. A facilitator is a guide to help people move through a process together.

- Group facilitation does not focus just on what gets achieved. It also focuses on **how** people participate in the process of learning or planning.

- A facilitator does not take sides.
Tips To Gain Input And Participation

- Make sure everyone feels comfortable participating.
- Develop a structure that allows for everyone’s ideas to be heard.
- Make people feel good about their contributions.
- Make sure the group feels the ideas and/or decisions are theirs.
- Support everyone’s ideas. Do not criticize them for what they say.

Successful Facilitation

- Be prepared.
- Know what is needed as far as purpose and goals.
- Know the participants in the room and consider their expectations or lack of expectations.
- Set and keep a structure as the seminar or meeting is conducted.
- Provide clear directives.
Active Listening

- Facilitators must keep up with the flow of conversations and ideas.
- Facilitators should make encouraging comments about input as people contribute.
- Appropriate structure should be maintained throughout the time allotted.

Final Thought

*Speech is power:*

*speech is to persuade, to convert, to compel.*

*It is to bring another out of his bad sense into your good sense.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson