

Workshop Checklist for Presenters and Advisors

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Content:

- Written outline of workshop includes “running time” (how long an activity takes and the total workshop time used up to that point)
- Applicable to students’ interests (relevant)
- “up-to-date” information/statistics
- encourages thinking and self exploration
- introduction - grabs attention (immediately engage)
- clearly defined objectives
- concepts in logical sequence
- concepts flow well (transitions are smooth)
- concepts given support from visual aids as appropriate
- sufficient detail to support the main points
- activities to allow participants to process/understand concepts
- variety of activities (not just “lecture”)
- closing summarizes the workshop clearly and concisely
- conclusion strong (not just "I guess that’s it.")
- allow question/answer session as appropriate
- have an energizer planned just in case
- have a “plan B” to shorten an activity or something that can be cut out if time becomes a factor and also have an extra activity incase you have extra time!

Delivery:

- knowledgeable about the topic covered in your presentation
- notes in order
- know the content - do not read from a paper or slide (be knowledgeable about the topic)
- visual aids in order (pre-rolled tape to put up visuals or equipment set and ready)
- use wording appropriate to the audience, not above or below them.
- refer to your handouts. Don't just say, "Look it over later." A good technique is to leave several blanks to be filled in during the workshop
- questions? address responses to everyone, not just the person who asked the question
- avoid fillers: "uhm" "you know"
- speak loudly enough to be heard in the room
- pronounce words clearly
- avoid speaking too rapidly (speak slowly)
- no significant loss of eye contact from reading a slide or gesturing toward it (do not read “word for word” to audience from a slide)
- varied voice pitch for emphasis
- eye contact - look at entire audience (watch “blind” corners)
- speak key points (such as conclusion) without reading
- avoid nervous hand movements – be aware of your body language – charisma!!
- smile - Be enthusiastic and energetic
- manage the timing/delivery of the workshop
- PRACTICE PRESENTING THE WORKSHOP!!

Visual Aids:

- visuals tied into the points you are trying to communicate
- easily seen from all areas of the room
- appropriate number of words and images on slides (not overloaded - focused on critical elements, not excessive in detail) - not “wordy”
- background does not interfere with points or text
- sufficient "white" space to (don't overcrowd everything on one poster or slide) –
- check the spelling!!
- have tangible props when possible
- use images that suit purpose and are appropriate for audience
- color choices should be easy to view (don't use light markers – more difficult to see; white lettering on a dark slide is not as readable as dark lettering on a lighter slide)
- colorful and “attention grabbing!”
- have a back-up plan if computer/LCD projector does not work or is not available (check technology!)
- use font types, sizes, and colors that can be read easily (not too fancy, not vertical lettering, etc.)

Other:

- dress appropriately so your clothing is not distracting to the presentation
- rewards (candy – to keep audience engaged?)
- create an environment that is safe to share ideas
- arrive early to set up the workshop room
- have FUN!

Measuring the success or failure of a workshop goes beyond mere participant satisfaction of--hopefully--an enjoyable and constructive workshop. It is measured in terms of:

- to what extent objectives were achieved
- what thinking, behavior or activity changes have taken place, will take place or have been confirmed as a result of the workshop
- what action results as a consequence of the workshop

Resources to Help: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studentaffairs/sao/resources/#visuals>

- Visuals - compilation of handouts to help prepare visual aids for teaching
- Teaching Tips - compilation of teaching tips to aid workshop presenters
- Workshops Checklist – checklist to help students / advisors with workshops
- Teaching Tips - powerpoint file for teaching "Teaching Tips and Tricks"
- Visual Aids for Teaching - powerpoint review of workshop from MASC Technical Trainers