

Public Speaking Workshop

“Naughty Words”

Objective: To be aware of good public speaking skills and to test those skills in a free forum discussion.

Materials:

- Bag of about 15 random objects
- Naughty words visual aid
- Public speaking skills visual aid
- Cards with matching pairs (see intro)
- Stopwatch (cell phone with a stopwatch)
- chart paper and markers (or chalkboard-chalk/white board-markers)

Introduction: 5 minutes

As participants enter, hand them each a card with a word on it that they will later match with someone else’s word for the first activity (example: one person’s card would say peanut butter and their partner’s card would say jelly).

- Workshop leader gets in front of group and introduces him/herself and the workshop title and objective using very poor public speaking skills (*slumping on the podium, mumbling, using ‘naughty words,’ not making eye contact, etc.*). The workshop leader then re-introduces him/herself and asks the group what they think was wrong with his/her public speaking.
- After the group lists the problems (*record responses on chart paper to display*) tell them to remember not to make those same mistakes throughout the workshop.

Warm-up/Icebreaker: 10 minutes

- The first activity is to find a partner - the person who has a matching card (*i.e. peanut butter – jelly*).
- Allow two minutes for partners to get to know as much information about each other as they can (*school/state, subject they teach, family, sports, etc.*).
- After two minutes, go around the room and have each pair stand up and introduce their partner using proper public speaking skills.
- Every time a person uses a naughty word (*filler words like ummm, uhhh, like, etc.*) yell out “naughty word!” and eventually the group will catch on and follow your lead.

Public Speaking Lesson: 5 minutes

Give participants a short lesson on public speaking using the visual aid as a reference. Model examples (*pro and con*) for each characteristic.

Public Speaking Drill: 10 minutes

Call up a “volunteer” by calling out the word on the cards used earlier. Using your bag of random objects, have the participant “blindly” pick an object. The participant will then be required to give a speech about the object for one minute, using the public speaking skills discussed earlier, or until they use a naughty word. Time the speaker to see if they are able to speak for one minute without using a naughty word. Continue calling up participants until the ten minutes is up.

Wrap Up – last two minutes

Have participants review what they learned:

- Good public speaking habits v. bad public speaking habits
- Why it’s important to have good speaking skills, etc...

“Naughty Words”

Uh

Um

Like

Huh

Well

I dunno

Ya know?

*Any word the speaker repeats to fill space
during “thinking time”*

Qualities of a Good Speaker

eye contact

volume

articulation – speaking clearly

voice inflections – not monotone or too low/high

sentence phrasing / breathing

posture

use of hand gestures and body language

presence and use of space

Workshop created by student leaders in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

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