



## Presentation Tips

Evidence from a growing number of educational studies suggests that lecture presentations fail to facilitate real learning; what's more, they make it difficult for audiences to retain and apply the information presented. Before turning to the tips below, we ask that you consider Adult Education Expert Jeff Hurt's<sup>1</sup> principles for active learning in order to design a presentation that is both effective and engaging.

### Principles for Active Learning

1. Learning involves active mental construction.
2. Learning facts and applying information are two different processes.
3. Practice makes perfect.
4. Peer learning rules.
5. Discussions facilitate learning.

## CREATE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

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- Speak less and encourage the audience to think and discuss your content.
- Design a problem-centric presentation that enables participants to leave with concrete skills that they can use to solve a real-life problem.
- Use storytelling to help your audience emotionally connect with the presentation.



- Build in time for self-reflection to increase the amount of information the audience retains from your presentation.
- Structure your presentation around 3-5 main points; don't overwhelm the audience with more information than they can absorb during your session.
- Present information in a variety of different forms (e.g., visual, audio, and/or experiential) to accommodate different learning styles.

## MAKE YOUR PRESENTATION INTERACTIVE

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- Include designated time for group discussions; these work best in groups of 2 or 3 so that all participants are able to share their comments and questions.
- Poll the audience using apps such as Poll Everywhere, Directpoll, and Twitter; or, simply ask participants to stand if a certain statement relates to them.
- Design a simulation exercise or role play for participants to act out in groups. This will facilitate learning and allow them to demonstrate their understanding of the material.
- Structure your presentation to include an interactive component every 15-20 minutes.

## STILL CURIOUS?

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If you are interested in learning more about active learning and best practices for interactive presentations, please consult these resources:

- [Facilitating Adult Learning: How to Teach so People Learn](#)
- [Presenter Tips for Audience Discussions](#)
- [Just Because You Speak Does Not Mean Your Audience Learns: Eight Presenter Principles to Master](#)

<sup>1</sup>Jeff Hurt, "21st Century Revolutionary Conferences Have Transformed The Traditional Education Session" (2013); "Just Because You Speak Does Not Mean Your Audience Learns: Eight Presenter Principles to Master" (2014); "Presenter Tips For Audience Discussions" (2013); "Is Your Presentation Like Facebook or TV?" (2012)