

How to give an engaging presentation

Participant guide

Session description and outcomes

Want to feel more comfortable speaking in front of others? In this workshop, you will learn various techniques for preparing and delivering effective presentations. You will also learn how context, body language, and visual aids can improve your presentation skills.

By the end of this session, you will have had the opportunity to:

- Identify concepts for creating effective presentations
- Recognize key aspects of giving effective presentations
- Understand the importance of body language for communicating ideas

Activities

This workshop will involve reflections with the option to share, partner practice with presenting a provided topic, and poll questions.

Your next steps

Following the session, reflect on the following questions:

What strategies will you use to improve your next presentation?

Land acknowledgment

McGill is located on the unceded Indigenous lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation, known as Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. The Kanien'kehá:ka, also known as the Keepers of the Eastern Door, are one of the nations that make up the Haudenosaunee Confederacy on Turtle Island/North America. Our presence on this land contributes to the dispossession and ongoing oppression of Indigenous peoples. Our goal is to promote learning and generate allyship with local Indigenous communities, by honouring and respecting the many nations removed from, as well as those still connected to this land. Consult [Native Land](#), McGill Indigenous Initiatives' [The Land and Peoples](#), and [Indigenous Education Resources](#) to learn more.

Throughout the workshop we encourage you to consider how the audience and context in which you are giving a presentation will dramatically affect how you give a presentation, how you prepare, what kind of material you use, what kind of language you use, and what the expectations of the audience may be. Acknowledging the land, wherever you may be, and your own positionality as a presenter starts off your presentation on a good note and is an important part of anti-oppressive education.

Resources

Consult the [learning resources](#) created by Teaching and Learning Services, particularly these resources on [reading strategies](#).

Visit [Self-Directed Learning Guides](#) from Student Accessibility & Achievement.

Explore [learning technologies](#) available to you.

Watch:

- [Amy Cuddy's TED Talk, "Your Body Language Shapes Who You Are"](#)
- [Jay Olson, 3MT winner 2018](#)
- [Examples of Ted talk hooks](#)

References

Chivers, B., & Shoolbred, M. (2007). *A student's guide to presentations: Making your presentation count*. SAGE Publications.

Cuddy, A. (2015). *Presence: Bringing your boldest self to your biggest challenges*. Little, Brown and Company.

Van Emden, J., & Becker, L. M. (2004). *Presentation skills for students*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Weiss, M. (2015). *Presentation skills: Educate, inspire and engage your audience*. Business Expert Press.

Special thanks to David Syncox and Falisha Karpati for resources in developing this workshop.

Contact information

For any questions about the workshop material or other related information, visit mcgill.ca/tls/students or email learning.tls@mcgill.ca.