

We have all sat through presentations which we thought would never end! We were interested in the topic, but the methods used to present the information were boring and dry. AACP is providing you, our members, with information which incorporates positive learning methodologies. We are providing you with tips for creating presentations in an interactive and audience engaging manner. This document is not all-inclusive; rather, it provides you with ideas you may use to spawn ones suitable to your presentation. Note that many of the interactive and engaging suggestions overlap.

In addition to the suggestions below, we are providing a copy of a publication from CoreNet Global titled “Adult Learning Tips”. This article will provide you additional ideas for making your presentation engaging for adult learners.

Engaging Activities:

1. Use simulations to reinforce learning – learning theory has shown when content is interesting for the viewer, learning is facilitated
2. Use diagrams or pictures to facilitate learning – learning styles differ for all of us, some people learn better with their visual sense
3. Use audio, video or other media in your presentation – the use of media triggers the human senses of sight and sound human senses, and learning theory indicates when more than one human sensory is involved, learning is facilitated
4. Ask the audience questions – allow your audience to feel a part of your presentation. Posing questions are good indicators if your audience is paying attention and whether some content is not clear and should be covered more in-depth
5. Reference and display webpages or documents – presenting documents and web pages during your presentation may seem disrupting to the flow, but doing so helps to maintain audience attention
6. It is very important for you to connect with your audience. Read their faces for understanding and modify your presentation as necessary. Excellent methods of engaging your audience is through:
 - story telling which highlight your topic
 - call upon your personal experiences in the topic area
 - relay experiences which may demonstrate emotion
 - real and believable situations
7. Create relevant comparisons and examples which the audience may relate to and facilitates understanding
8. Communicate the goals of the presentation and how they will be achieved
9. Use group inter and intra-actions for engaging your audience
10. Above all, make learning fun!!!

Interactive Activities:

1. The simplest and most advantageous interaction which may occur during a presentation is discussion. Create opportunities to interact with your audience utilizing the suggestions mentioned above
2. During presentations, stop to ask your audience questions and obtain feedback. This interaction promotes discussions and ensures your audience understands your content
3. Use open-ended questions when you speak with your audience. Open-ended questions encourages informative discussions
4. Ask for verbal feedback and opinions from your audience. Asking the thoughts of your audience allows them to feel their presence is appreciated and valued
5. Ask for written feedback when appropriate with anonymous responses
6. Gain audience feedback using surveys / electronic polling. This method also allows for anonymity
7. Use role play activities involving members of your audience. Role plays creates an environment of participation and requires individuals to be interactive with each other and the subject topic
8. Use group collaboration to involve your audience. Group activities create an environment for working together on a common topic-related effort
9. Create activities which promote interaction within and among groups; use of games and individual and team competitions can be helpful
10. Another method for interaction is asking groups to brainstorm and create a collaborative presentation
11. Interacting with material content is a good method of interaction. When suitable, ask audience members to participate in demonstrations of proper equipment usage