

T.I.P.S.

The Speaking Center Presents: Techniques to Improve Public Speaking

To schedule an appointment visit: <https://www.csusb.edu/speaking-center-jhbc>

Convenient and simple techniques or suggestions to help improve in a variety of public speaking areas.

Suggestions for Speaking about Difficult Topics

Be prepared and well versed.

- Understand every aspect of your topic in order to answer any questions that may be raised.
- In thoroughly understanding your topic, you will be able to adjust the presentation as needed for audience engagement.
- Consider what portions of the presentation might be the most difficult for listeners, and be prepared to explain yourself in a better way if needed.
- Analogies and anecdotes are good techniques to approach difficult topics.

Think about the overall outcome or desired result for your presentation.

- What do you want your audience to walk away knowing?
- You can support your position with facts (researched information, visuals, etc.).
- Take time to debunk common myths surrounding the topic.
- Always be working towards your overall desired outcome.

Know your audience.

- You might be able to recall certain reactions, conversations, or statements made by audience members in the past, which can help you in future speeches.
- Try to think about any potential positions and accommodate your information to try and find a middle ground.

Establish credibility.

- Why should the audience listen to what you are saying?
- Credibility builds trust and confidence with the audience.

Acknowledge the fact that the topic is controversial.

- Address this in the introduction.

