



How to Give a Presentation:

10 Helpful Hints

1. Set the Theme:

While a theme party is one option for an event to get your friends and family involved in development, this isn't exactly what we mean. Setting the theme means stating within the first few minutes what the overarching message of your presentation is, and then restating that integral point throughout your presentation. For example, if you worked with a microfinance organization in Uganda, your theme could be the importance of becoming involved and aware of the impact microfinance can make in developing countries. Another theme that many interns have presented on is the importance of interning abroad and/or the impact their FSD experience has had on their career paths.

2. Demonstrate Enthusiasm:

You're excited to share your experience with others, that's why you are presenting on your time interning with FSD, make sure that enthusiasm comes through all the nervousness you might be feeling. Using vivid verbs and talking candidly about what made your experience unique is a great way to make sure you inspire your audience. Most speakers get into a presentation mode and feel as though they have to strip the talk of any fun, but if you're not enthusiastic about your own experience, you probably won't inspire your audience.

3. Provide and Outline:

If you are using the FSD PowerPoint you will notice that an outline is provided for you, and you are kept on track of where you are within the presentation by the highlighted guideposts at the bottom. In addition to this outline it is helpful to clearly open and close each section, thus making clear transitions.

4. Make Information Meaningful:

You have gone through the FSD program and understand the importance of an internship with FSD. As you read through the PowerPoint slides make sure you contextualize the information and speak about your experience and why, for example, a site team or living with a host family is an important part of your experience. The more you can personalize these aspects of the FSD program the more meaningful it will be to your audience in understanding what the internship process and your internship were like.

5. Try for an Unforgettable Moment:

This is the moment in your presentation that everyone will be talking about. It can be a build up in your pictures to one that really captures your experience, or a story about your time in country that really captures your theme or is emotionally poignant. It helps to identify what this poignant moment is before hand and make sure you build up to it.



6. Have Visual Aides:

FSD provides an easy to use and personalize PowerPoint presentation. If the venue you will be presenting at cannot accommodate this, try having a photo album available for people to look through. As you insert your pictures try to keep them free of text so that the image is what captivates your audience, and speak about the importance of the picture to you.

7. Give ‘em a Show:

Presentations have ebbs and flows, themes and transitions. Your presentation should be more than just delivering information and educating your audience about the issues you feel passionately about, it should be a show of the work you accomplished in the field.

8. Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff:

Despite your best preparations, something might go wrong. Don’t worry about it or get thrown off by it, if you can, simply summarize what you were talking about and move on with your presentation. Try not to get flustered over minor glitches, have fun and remember that few will remember a glitch in your presentation unless you call attention to it.

9. Discuss the Benefit:

Getting people involved in international development and sharing your experience is an important part of the advocacy work we all do, and discussing how your experience has affected you and the benefit to your organization is an important part of getting others involved. Answer the questions up front that many of your audience are wondering: How can I get involved? Why should I get involved?

10. Practice Makes Perfect:

Good public speaking is not always a quality we all innately have, but there is something we can all do to make sure that our presentations are a success, practice. Even Apple’s Steve Jobs rehearses his presentation before MacWorld, and by going over what your presentation you can determine where the key points for questions, breaks, or to re-emphasize your theme naturally fall.

Good Luck and Have Fun!

(And remember, if you have any questions you can contact us at FSD to answer questions or help you distribute materials)