

PRESENTING & PUBLIC SPEAKING TIPS

Building Effective Presentation Skills



GET A MENTOR

Find a mentor who can provide you important practice opportunities and feedback.

PRESENT Like, a lot!

Practice with colleagues frequently. Accept public speaking opportunities when offered if you can. Ask for the opportunity to lead meetings and training activities.



MINIMIZE RELIANCE ON SCRIPTS

If you need a script, work to fade it out by moving from a full script to an outline, to phrases, to key words. If possible, have your visuals function as the SDs for your verbal behavior.

KEEP VISUALS SIMPLE

Keep the visuals in your slides simple and clear to support what you are saying. Minimize text, using bullets and key words instead of sentences.



OBSERVE OTHERS

Identify high-quality presenters to observe. Take notes. Think about what they did that was effective. Reach out to them and ask questions.

SOLICIT FEEDBACK

Ask mentors, supervisors, and colleagues to attend your talks and give you feedback. Consider giving them a structured feedback form to support getting specific, pin-pointed feedback.



Helpful article

Heinicke, M. R., Juanico, J. F., Valentino, A. L., & Sellers, T. P. (2022). Improving behavior analysts' public speaking: Recommendations from expert interviews. *Behavior Analysis in Practice*, 15(1), 203–218.