

Spur of the Moment: Analyzing and Responding to Audience Feedback

This activity gives you a chance to not only practice impromptu speeches, but also to analyze your audience throughout your presentation, and adapt your speech to the demographics and received feedback.

In a group of five or more, everyone will have a specific role to play. One will be the speaker while the others perform certain feedback roles, such as: bored, distracted, asks too many questions, etc. Cut out the roles that are provided in this activity and fold them up so that nobody can see what they are getting when drawing a slip of paper. You can always add some of your own roles as well! Keep your role secret. The speaker will have about 3 minutes to quickly think of a topic that will suit the audience and to choose which points to discuss. Once the speaker begins, everyone should act out the individual roles at appropriate points during the speech (do not act out your role throughout the entire speech as you need to give the speaker specific moments to respond to feedback and tailor the speech accordingly).

Once the speaker has finished the short speech (around 3 minutes) the group should discuss: which roles were acted out, how the speaker responded to these roles, what was handled well, what could have been handled differently, and the general effectiveness of the speech. Afterwards, repeat the activity so that every group member has a turn being the speaker.

Roles:

Speaker	Annoyed
Bored	Disagreeing with the speaker
Distracted	Passing a note to someone
Asks too many questions	Reading a book
Gets up in the middle of the speech	Interrupts speech
Talking to a neighbor	Excessive sighing
Giggling loudly	
Using cell phone	
Enthusiastic	
Confused	
Paying attention	