

Presenter TIP SHEET for FWD@18

Talking with high school students is rewarding, as well as challenging. A few tips, however, will make that challenge rewarding for both you and the students.

Taking Care of Business Ahead of Time- Ask Questions

1. Number of students and presentations? Size of each audience?
2. Kids already know anything about topics? Previous class discussions?
3. Kinds of students you will encounter? Diversity in abilities and backgrounds? Cultural considerations? Any special needs and/or students in the room?
4. Power-point access? Handouts copied for you?

Taking Care of Business the Day Of

1. Check out equipment ahead of time. Not all schools have state-of-the-art.
2. Arrange the room, if need be, so you can “walk the aisles” yet have a “stage” in front.
3. Have teacher identify quietly to you who can be called on and those who might be a little bit more troublesome.
4. Save time. Distribute handouts as students come in. Announce to get out paper/pen if needed.
5. Make contact with at least one or two students as they enter. Ask their names. Get somebody on your side before you begin.

Using Tricks of the Trade

1. Use a “hook” to engage students immediately about your topic (Dramatic story, survey, written response to a scenario you give them).
2. Have kids share what they did. Always ask their names. Question them about what they said or did. Make positive statements about their answers. Thank them.
3. Ask other kids to respond to what was shared. Piggyback on answers.
4. Shift gears between opening hook and power-point.
5. Present power-point as a conversation that tells a story. Fill in conversation with researched details of information directly relating to them. Kids learn best through stories about other kids and will retain information relatable to their needs.
6. Get feedback as you present. Ask open-ended questions. Use wait time. Piggy-back on responses. Define new concepts or words within context. Don’t take for granted kids will understand what you are saying.
7. Be yourself but don’t be afraid to connect. Their concerns are yours but just from a different perspective.
8. Show some excitement and/or love for your topic and for their futures. Roll with what kids give you. Laugh. Don’t take them or yourself too seriously.
9. Adapt as you go along. Watch your time, your audience and change what you have planned if need be. Follow your instincts.
10. Look forward to future presentations. You may just want to change careers.