

What is the tips to enhance public speaking skills

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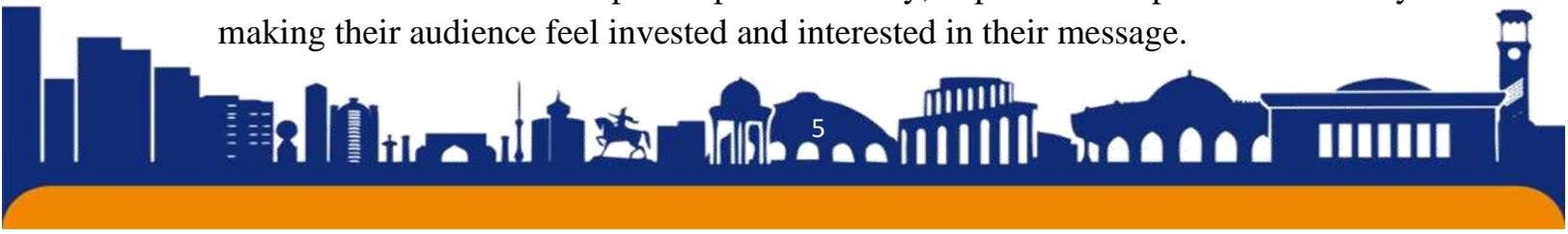
Annotation : This article talks about public speaking skills. There was also talk about measures to improve public speaking skills.

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If you search "how to improve public speaking," you'll likely find numerous articles suggesting that you practice more, speak with greater confidence, and so on. While these recommendations are indeed valid, they can be quite vague. When I first started public speaking, I thought bringing in a script or cue cards was the right thing to do. That way, my mind won't go blank and I would be able to say everything I prepared. But soon, I realized that relying on scripts will not improve my public speaking. In fact, it made my speech sound overly robotic and monotonous. The audience quickly became disconnected and unengaged. Also, looking at my script or cue cards so often would result in a lack of eye contact with the audience, causing them to lose focus easily. This was the first change I made that improved my public speaking skills. Because I no longer carry a script or cue cards when I'm presenting, I made more eye contact and I speak in a more natural flow with the audience. Many public speakers, including myself, would talk really fast without stopping when we are feeling nervous. At that moment, I thought I was talking and articulating my points well but when I monitored myself, I was clearly speaking too fast. This made it challenging for the audience to grasp the key points I wanted to convey.

Pausing is a powerful public speaking technique that can be used to emphasize key points, create suspense, and engage the audience. When used effectively, pauses can also help the speaker to collect their thoughts and maintain composure during their presentation. After I started incorporating pauses into my talks and presentations, many told me that I seem more confident; even if in reality, I was sweating from nervousness during the whole talk. As someone who has attended numerous conferences and watched countless TED Talks and public speaking videos, I've observed that I tend to concentrate and enjoy presentations delivered by speakers who are evidently passionate about their subject matter.

There is something truly captivating about a speaker who exudes enthusiasm and excitement for what they are sharing, and it makes their message all the more powerful. Whether it's a technical topic or personal story, a passionate speaker has a way of making their audience feel invested and interested in their message.



Putting passion into your talk does not mean you have to speak loudly. While it's true that some speakers use volume to convey their enthusiasm, I've found that a soft-spoken speaker can be just as effective. The key is to convey passion through the tone and inflection of your voice, rather than just the volume. A speaker who speaks with conviction and emotion, even in a quiet tone, can capture the audience's attention and convey their message in a powerful way. So if you're naturally soft-spoken, don't be afraid to speak at your most comfortable volume and focus on the genuine passion and your tone to display that quiet confidence. When I was researching how to be a better public speaker, a common tip that a lot of articles stated was that "adding humour" would be a good way to interact and engage the audience. However, despite the widespread recommendation, I know very well that I'm just not the type to crack jokes in the middle of a talk and I can't naturally blend humour in my words. Forcing myself to do so would feel inauthentic and forced. Instead, I've learned to focus on other techniques, such as storytelling, to connect with my audience and make my presentations more engaging. After all, being true to yourself and your own speaking style is the key to connecting with your audience and delivering a memorable talk. If you've read any of my personal blog articles, you might know that I have a tendency to be a bit of a perfectionist. I'm always striving to improve myself and my skills, which can sometimes lead me to be overly critical of myself.

This trait carried over into my early experiences with public speaking, where I found myself feeling discouraged and demotivated after making even the smallest mistake. It felt like my mistakes were evidence of my incompetence, and I began to doubt if I could ever improve my speaking skills.

Eventually, I learned to approach mistakes with a different mindset. Instead of viewing mistakes as a sign of failure or incompetence, I began to see them as opportunities for growth and improvement. I learned to be more forgiving of myself, recognizing that making mistakes is a natural part of the learning process. Whenever an opportunity to speak came up, whether it was for volunteer work or school activities, I would raise my hand. Now, saying 'yes' to speaking opportunities became almost a habit. Gradually, I became more confident in my speaking abilities, and I now enjoy sharing my knowledge and insights with others through Twitter Spaces, talks, panel discussions, etc.

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