

SAE INTERNATIONAL

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION TIPS

Addressing the Audience

Say “You” not “Everyone”

- Ex: “Can you hear me?” not “Can everyone hear me?”
- **It makes every listener feel like you are speaking to them**
- **Listeners pay more attention when you make it personal**



<https://ideas.ted.com/before-your-next-presentation-or-speech-heres-the-first-thing-you-must-think-about/>

Use graphics, pictures, stories, and your voice

- This keeps the audience focused on you longer
- Remember you are competing for their screen time more than in an in-person presentation

Preparation is Key

Being prepared is just as important as ever in a virtual presentation.

- **Virtual seems less formal and it feels like we do not need to be as prepared**
 - Stutters, filler words, and long pauses are more noticeable when it's just your voice and your PowerPoint.



https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/benjamin_franklin_138217

If you are on video

Stand if possible

- **You can move more freely so you will have less fidgety movements**
- **It also gives a more professional look than sitting in a chair**

Have eye contact

- **Look at the Camera not the screen**
 - This is your way to make eye contact with the audience
- **Looking at the camera the viewers will get another personal feel to the virtual presentation**

Test Everything

- **Make sure you have a strong Wi-Fi connection**
 - Ensure you will be able to complete your presentation without interruptions
- **Make sure your mic is working**
 - Know your audience can hear you without asking multiple times
 - You have the confidence that you are being heard.



<https://keepcalms.com/p/keep-calm-and-test-everything/>

Have a Backup Plan

- **In case on presentation day your power or Wi-Fi goes out, your mic broke, or your PowerPoint gets deleted by accident**
 - Have back up equipment, keep your laptop fully charged, back up your presentation on a flash drive to make sure everything runs smoothly
- **Be ready to address the issues quickly**
 - Switch to giving presentation over the phone
 - When in doubt make a joke
- **Just Keep Going!**

Smile 😊

- **Smile when you speak even if your audience cannot see you**
- **It will give your voice a pleasant tone and will make a big difference for your audience**



<https://in.mashable.com/culture/7368/world-smile-day-2019-appreciating-all-the-iconic-smiles-in-pop-culture>

Follow 6x6 Rule

- **Try to keep 6 bullets per slide and 6 words per bullet to prevent over crowded slides**
- **It will prevent viewers from reading your slides and allow them to listen to what you are saying**
- **It's easier said than done**
 - Just do not put your presentation word for word in the PowerPoint

Reduce Distractions

- **Turn off notifications**
 - This will keep you focused on the presentation



<https://hackernoon.com/6-habits-to-stay-focused-at-your-computer-905c24ef62e3>

Citations

- **Abrahams, Matt. “10 Tips For Giving Effective Virtual Presentations.” Stanford Graduate School of Business, 26 Sept. 2016, www.gsb.stanford.edu/insights/10-tips-giving-effective-virtual-presentations.**
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- **King, Tara. “9 Tips for Giving Engaging Virtual Presentations.” *Pantheon*, 18 Mar. 2020, pantheon.io/blog/tips-for-virtual-presentations.**

Citations

- Robson, Kerry. “8 Tips to Improve Virtual Presentations.” *PhUSE*, 18 Mar. 2020, www.phuse.eu/blog/8-tips-to-improve-virtual-presentations-new-.
- “28 Best Practices for Delivering Engaging Virtual Presentations.” *28 Best Practices for Delivering Engaging Virtual Presentations*, whatworks.biz/28-best-practices-for-delivering-engaging-virtual-presentations/.
- Camden, Raymond. “Tips for Giving Remote Presentations.” *Raymond Camden*, www.raymondcamden.com/2020/03/10/tips-for-giving-remote-presentations.