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Virtual Speakers Association

# 40 To Make You TIPS A Great Virtual Presenter







Lindsay Adams OAM  
Australia



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**TIP 1:**

# Look Them In The Eye

Make sure you look directly at the camera lens when you are presenting.

Talk to your audience.

Avoid looking at the people as your eyes will be downcast.





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**TIP 2:**

# Seek Styles with Sleeves

**Wendy Lee**  
Malaysia

It may be tempting to wear a sleeveless blouse due to our hot and humid weather, but in virtual calls, screens are small and all we see is your upper body.

Showing too much arm can make it seem like you are showing too much skin.





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**Frowa Schuitemaker**  
Netherlands

**TIP 3:**

# You Or Your Slide

Showing something during a virtual meeting is often of great value.

However, if you let your audience look at a slide for minutes without anything changing, it is often more powerful to present without a slide and to have your face on the screen.





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# **TIP 4:** **Engagement is** **Different** **from Interaction**

**Warwick Merry**  
Australia

Engagement is different from interaction. Make sure your request has purpose and will progress the learning.

 <http://warwickmerry.com>

 [warwick@warwickmerry.com](mailto:warwick@warwickmerry.com)





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**TIP 5:**


# One Rule in Public Speaking: There Are No Rules

**Paul ter Wal**  
Netherlands

As a pilgrim walking the Camino de Santiago, this is the only rule. The same for public speaking: a lot of people will tell you that you NEED TO DO .....

If there is one rule, it is to be authentic, which means to be yourself as you truly are. So, watch others, learn from them, find a good coach and join/create a mastermind group AND be yourself.

 <https://www.team-andare.com>

 [Paul@paulterwal.nl](mailto:Paul@paulterwal.nl)





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**TIP 6:**

# The Power of Stories



**Jonathan Low**  
Malaysia

Use stories to inspire and influence. Personal stories with learning insights are powerful ways to engage and involve your audience.

Start your stories with words like "Imagine" or "What If". This will almost immediately connect and engage your audience to your stories.







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**TIP 7:**

**Leave**

**an Impression**

**Dr. Mohammed Jadcareem**  
Saudi Arabia

As a speaker, you need to know everything surrounding your client.

You need to leave a loud and lasting impression with them so they could better remember your words.





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## TIP 8:

# Engage Participants Within the First Five Minutes



Jessica Breitenfeld  
Canada

Engage participants within the first five minutes. Get them all off mute, so they know their voices are heard in the session.

Start with a welcoming energy, and even the quieter ones will know they are welcome to participate.





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**TIP 9:**

# Do Not Be Afraid of Silence

**Bruce Wade**  
South Africa

When speaking virtually, do not be afraid of silence: allow time for new ideas to sink in and sit with your audience. Keep eye contact with your camera and pause often for effect. A tip here is to slightly keep moving, so people do not think you have frozen.





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**TIP 10:**


**Be You**




**Gunnel Ryner**  
Sweden

Be the best version of YOU, not a mediocre copy of someone else.

It's fine to be inspired by and learn from other speakers, but don't try to copy them. You will be far more successful if you maximize your own unique strengths.

 <https://www.gunnelryner.com>

 [gunnel@gunnelryner.com](mailto:gunnel@gunnelryner.com)





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**TIP 11:**


# Cheat Sheet

**Charlotte Kemp**  
South Africa

Have a 'cheat sheet' ready with links and comments that you can quickly copy and paste into the chat box during a virtual session.

If you can anticipate what you need to share, then a quick copy-and-paste is less disruptive than taking the time to type something instead.

 [www.charlottekemp.co.za](http://www.charlottekemp.co.za)

 [charlotte@charlottekemp.co.za](mailto:charlotte@charlottekemp.co.za)





Liz Hardwick  
United Kingdom



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## TIP 12:

# Always Thank the Behind the Scenes Stars

Always be polite and thank the stage, tech, hospitality and cleaning teams around you that are enabling you to speak on stage.

They will remember you, and you never know who they know, so leave a good impression!





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**TIP 13:**

# Eye Level



**Siegfried Lange**  
Namibia

Making sure your camera is at your eye level is crucial. If you have it too low, you will make people feel like you are talking down to them.

If it is too high, they will often look onto the top of your head and see you are starting to lose your....

Your eye contact should be great with a camera that is at eye level.



[www.siegfriedlange.com](http://www.siegfriedlange.com)



[sigi@capacitytrust.com](mailto:sigi@capacitytrust.com)





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# TIP 14: Test Your Environment

**Mike Handcock**  
New Zealand

Make sure you test the links, set up, and record a trial 1 minute of the presentation so you can ensure everything is working.





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# TIP 15: Make Sure They Can Hear Only You

Lindsay Adams OAM  
Australia

Check your background noise to make sure your voice is the only sound your audience can hear.

Next, ask the audience to mute themselves so no other conflicting sounds enter the meeting.



[www.24x7assessments.com.au](http://www.24x7assessments.com.au)



[lindsay@24x7assessments.com.au](mailto:lindsay@24x7assessments.com.au)





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**Julian Mather**  
Australia

## TIP 16:

# Distractions Dilute Your Message

Check your background. Straighten your collar. Make sure your bangles don't jangle.

If your viewer is focused on distractions, they aren't focused on your message.







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**Marina Smolyanov**  
Israel

**TIP 17:**

# Tell Personal Stories

Tell your personal story which explains what shaped you into the person who you are today (while emphasizing your core values, ideology, and your Why).



[www.marina-smolyanov.com](http://www.marina-smolyanov.com)



[marina@msmolyanov.com](mailto:marina@msmolyanov.com)





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**TIP 18:**

## **Design a Memorable Experience**

**Jonathan Low**  
Malaysia

Design the structure of your speaking presentation and engagement to evoke the head and heart, both the IQ and EQ.

Use stories, polls, chats, videos, questions, quizzes, learning activities, discussions to engage and reflections time to embed the insights gained.





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**TIP 19:**

# Be Their Sense-maker



**Sally Curtis**  
South Africa

It's important that in our fast-paced world, where people are already overwhelmed, fatigued with information, you become their sense-maker."

A sense maker takes today's chaotic information overload, and turns it into simple to understand chunks, that are meaningful & relevant to the individuals, communities or organizations they serve."



<https://www.sallyacurtis.biz>



Sally@Sallyacurtis.biz





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# TIP 20:

**Ronald Lee**  
Malaysia

## "BULLET POINTS KILL"





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**TIP 21:**

# Engage With Your Screen

**Siegfried Lange**  
Namibia

I have played around with programs and eventually found a way to have my presentation projected behind me. This in itself is a great tip because it allows so much more flexibility.

When you have that down, find ways to engage with the presentation so you can become part of the message sent, and you will have heaps of fun with your audience.



[www.siegfriedlange.com](http://www.siegfriedlange.com)



[sigi@capacitytrust.com](mailto:sigi@capacitytrust.com)





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## TIP 22:

# Develop a Technique to End an Online Session



**Charlotte Kemp**  
South Africa

Without a strong and neat close, people hang around too long with an endless series of increasingly awkward goodbyes. It could be a signature farewell message or a closing slide referencing future events or social sites.

Perhaps you, as the host, could turn off your video and audio after you have said goodbye, and let people have the freedom to leave while you are no longer engaging with them.





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**TIP 23:**

# **Engage Your Audience**

**Gunnel Ryner**  
Sweden

Let your audience be active!

Use exercises, discussions in breakout rooms, polls, chat, digital notice boards and other ways to involve people.

 <https://www.gunnelryner.com>

 [gunnel@gunnelryner.com](mailto:gunnel@gunnelryner.com)





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# TIP 24: Always Have a Plan B


**Liz Hardwick**  
United Kingdom

An experienced professional speaker will try and plan for every eventuality.

Always have a plan B for your technology, your activities, your content, your engagement.

When something isn't working or going down well with your audience you can easily and smoothly move to Plan B.

 <https://www.LizHardwick.co.uk>

 [Liz@DigiEnable.co.uk](mailto:Liz@DigiEnable.co.uk)





**Warwick Merry**  
Australia





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**TIP 25:**

**Speak  
Slightly Faster**

It will keep your audience's attention  
and save them drifting to Facebook  
(your competitor!).

 <http://warwickmerry.com>

 [warwick@warwickmerry.com](mailto:warwick@warwickmerry.com)





**Mike Handcock**  
New Zealand



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**TIP 26:**

# **Don't Get Carried Away With Tools**

Instead, keep the interaction going and stay away from the fancy stuff unless you are a guru.





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**TIP 27:**

# **Make Content Bite-sized!**

**Sally Curtis**  
Australia

You're fatigued, your clients are drained, and we need to simultaneously solve BOTH those problems to be at the top of our game with content that attracts and impacts the audience.



<https://www.sallyacurtis.biz>



Sally@Sallyacurtis.biz





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**TIP 28:**

# Never Tell Them to Turn on Their Cameras



Jessica Breitenfeld  
Canada

Instead, make them want to turn them on.

If you don't respond to their expressions, reactions or refer to them, they will not feel 'seen'; thus, they will not turn on their cameras until you prove you care about them and know how to interact with them.





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**TIP 29:**

**Be Creative  
in Your  
Interaction Approach**



**Nienke Bloem**  
Netherlands

Use different forms of interaction.

Make sure you engage your audience and have them interact with you and each other, for example, by Chat, Polls, Quizzes, and breakouts.





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**TIP 30:**

# Be an Expert in Your Topic



**Paul ter Wal**  
Netherlands

This is not about age or years of experience; it's about knowing and owning your topic.

Then you can be yourself because you know what you are talking about.

Never mind structures, deliver insights and knowledge and let the audience become part of it.





**Frowa Schuitemaker**  
Netherlands



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## TIP 31:

# Go for the Fastest Approach

More and more speakers use additional tools to actively involve their audience but too often, they take the momentum out of a presentation.

Discover the quickest way to interact, without putting your audience on hold.

Use all the possibilities of the chat and the camera.





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**TIP 32:**

# **Rule 5.1 of Virtual Communication**



**Bruce Wade**  
South Africa

For every 5 minutes of talking include one audience response activity. These could be as involved as a poll, drawings, breakouts or as simple as a thumbs up or a 'Y' in the chat.

This keeps your audience engaged and participative to your talk.





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**TIP 33:**

# **Video is Not Radio**

**Julian Mather**  
Australia

Video is not radio. Video doesn't need a thousand words. Video's power is pictures. Show don't tell.

 <https://www.julianmather.com>

 [julian@julianmather.com](mailto:julian@julianmather.com)





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**TIP 34:**

# Emotional Engagement

Marina Smolyanov  
Israel

Create emotional engagement with your audience through humour, smile, and personal story.

 [www.marina-smolyanov.com](http://www.marina-smolyanov.com)

 [marina@msmolyanov.com](mailto:marina@msmolyanov.com)





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**TIP 35:**

# Show Your Enthusiasm



**Gunnel Ryner**  
Sweden

Use your voice, facial expressions and body language to convey your energy and passion for your topic.

Emotions are contagious, so let your excitement show.





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**TIP 36:**

# Pause Please!



**Wendy Lee**  
Malaysia

Nothing is more dramatic than well-planned suspense. Use silence as a tactic. When you have made a point, pause. Let the words sink in.

Don't ramble on and on. Give people's brains time to evaluate and consider what you have said.







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# TIP 37:

**Ronald Lee**  
Malaysia

**"SHOW,  
DON'T TELL"**





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**Nienke Bloem**  
Netherlands

## TIP 38:

# Begin With the End in Mind

When you design your virtual meeting (or event program), make sure you know what you want to get out of it.

Describe what you want your audience to Think, Feel and Do after your meeting. This way, you can work towards those three elements.





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**TIP 39:**

**It Is You  
Against  
Their Biases.**

**Dr. Mohammed Jadcareem**  
Saudi Arabia

So, make sure not to take your own bias with you to the speaking event.



[www.mrjadcareem.com](http://www.mrjadcareem.com)



[mrjadcareem@mrjadcareem.com](mailto:mrjadcareem@mrjadcareem.com)





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# TIP 40: Close Your Other Programs



**Mike Handcock**  
New Zealand

Close other programs and clear off family members from the Wi-Fi while you present. You want the strongest signal and best video quality.



[www.circleofexcellence.biz](http://www.circleofexcellence.biz)



[mdh@circleofexcellence.biz](mailto:mdh@circleofexcellence.biz)