

Training—Stage Presentations

Time

30 minutes

Materials

- *America's Next Top Museum Presenter* video
- Copies of this training worksheet for participants (optional)
- Pens for jotting notes

Training overview

1. Watch *America's Next Top Museum Presenter* video (Pause the video when prompted!) While you watch, note the ways each contestant enhances or detracts from the stage presentation.

Contestant 1:

Contestant 2:

Contestant 3:

Contestant 4:

2. While the video is paused discuss as a group the strengths and weaknesses of the different presentations. Who would you vote for as America's Next Top Museum Presenter?
 - Discuss what makes a stage presentation successful.
 - Review the second page of this document for some of the things you may have noticed while watching the video.
3. Finish watching *America's Next Top Museum Presenter* to find out who was chosen as the winner. Is it the same person you would vote for?

Characteristics of a bad museum stage presentation

- The presenter has not practiced the program in advance.
- The presenter is not familiar with the material.
- The presenter is not dressed professionally or appropriately.
- The presenter does not use the props appropriately.
- The presenter's materials are unprepared.
- The presenter's body language is stiff or uninviting.
- The presenter's gestures are not deliberate.
- The presenter does not ask questions, just talks.
- The presenter speaks too quickly, too quietly, or without confidence.
- The presenter's slides or graphics are cluttered and overwhelming.
- The facilitator ends the conversation abruptly.

Characteristics of a good museum stage presentation

- The presenter has practiced the presentation.
- The presenter's materials are prepared and ready.
- The presenter is approachable and puts visitors at ease.
- The presenter wears appropriate clothing.
- The presenter takes all necessary safety precautions.
- The presenter engages the audience by asking appropriate questions.
- The presenter uses language that is accessible and understandable to the audience.
- The presenter uses props and demonstrations appropriately.
- The presenter is well mannered and thanks the visitor for listening.

If time allows, show the video a second time, stopping at each “bad” practice to discuss how the presentation could have gone differently or been more effective and appropriate.



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