



Props Aren't Just for Presentations

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Word Count: 371

Have you ever facilitated a meeting or been the master of ceremonies? Do you stick to a specific script? Do you embellish and create opportunities for fun and laughter? The use of props is restricted only by your lack of creativity, interest or fear. Do you use props when possible and appropriate?

Last month, one of my clubs had a meeting scheduled. The agenda was full. Then the phone calls and cancellations started – at the last minute, of course. One of the cancellations was the master of ceremonies. So we shifted from master of ceremonies to mistress of ceremonies. Hmmmm....It was a lot to pull together in a very short amount of time.

Last Minute Agenda Changes

The chairman finally sent the MC a revised and “final” agenda the night before the scheduled meeting. “I had to come up with a spot for this added agenda item,” he wrote, “we’ll call it a ‘Flight Check’ and attendees can present and receive immediate feedback about their speech opening or closing during open microphone night.”

One presenter had signed up for this “flight check” in advance of the meeting as requested. The MC had the presenter’s introduction ready to deliver. When the time came during the meeting for his abbreviated presentation, the MC explained that this was the “Flight Check” portion of the meeting, donned a headset, and dialed a telephone to connect with the “control tower” to request “authorization” for this speaker to present his flight check material.

The audience was delighted as the MC continued, “No, Control, I don’t know about his “craft,” however, I can tell you that he.....” and the MC launched into the prepared introduction for the speaker. Successfully. The audience demeanor was lighter and enthusiastic. The speaker was bright-eyed and beaming at the humor of needing authorization from the control tower to deliver his presentation.

Props Get Audience Attention

Props are not just for presentations! Develop and use interesting, creative props where your listeners don't expect them. The energy of your audience will shift. Their enthusiasm and commitment to give you their attention will pique. Your audience will love you for moving past your fears and adding to your presentation or microphone time – with THEM in mind!

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