TEDx Speaker Guide

You've been selected to give a TEDx Talk.

→ Props to you ←

You're doing good work. Keep it up.

As you prepare for your talk, keep in mind these Guiding Principles. They've worked for others. They'll work for you.

1. Get familiar with the form

2. Develop an idea

3. Make an outline and script

4. Create slides

5. Rehearse

6. Give your talk

7. Savor the glory

This illustrated guide was adapted from the text version (TED.com). It was created by Doug Neill (TheGraphicRecorder.com) in connection with TEDxConcordiaUPortland (TEDxConcordiaUPortland.com)
1 GET FAMILIAR WITH THE FORM

WHAT IS A TEDx TALK?
A SHOWCASE FOR SPEAKERS PRESENTING WELL-FORMED IDEAS IN UNDER 18 MINUTES

WHY 18 MINUTES?
BECAUSE IT WORKS

SHORT CHUNKS
ONE SUBJECT AT A TIME
HAPPY AUDIENCE

BUT, REALLY, CAN I GO OVER 18 MINUTES?

NO! You might not even need 18. Joe Smith did it in 5. Watch and learn. Then go wash your hands.

2 DEVELOP AN IDEA

WHAT MAKES A GOOD IDEA FOR A TALK?
TAKE EVIDENCE OR OBSERVATIONS AND DRAW A LARGER CONCLUSION

SOMETHING NEW
SOMETHING SURPRISING
OLD IDEA IN NEW LIGHT
CHALLENGE A BELIEF
DO I NEED TO BE AN EXPERT ON MY TOPIC?

**THE** expert, no. **AN** expert, yes.

The audience is counting on you
* Check your facts!
* Use reliable sources
* Consult with other experts

IS MY IDEA READY?

Write down your idea in one or two sentences:


Then ask yourself these questions:

→ **Is my idea new?** ←

→ **Is it interesting?** ←
  (to a broad audience)

→ **Is it factual and realistic?** ←
  (Can your call to action be executed?)

If you answered ‘no’ to any of these, refine your idea. Then ask someone you respect who is not in your field those three questions. Then ask your TEDx Event organizing team. Keep refining until you get ‘yes’ across the board.
**3 MAKE AN OUTLINE AND SCRIPT**

**WHAT IS THE BEST STRUCTURE FOR A TALK?**

TRICK QUESTION

THERE IS NO ONE BEST STRUCTURE THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE.

BUT HERE IS ONE THAT HAS WORKED FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE:

1. **MAKE YOUR AUDIENCE CARE**
   (USING A RELATABLE EXAMPLE OR INTRIGUING IDEA)

2. **EXPLAIN YOUR IDEA**
   (CLEARLY AND WITH CONVINCION)

3. **DESCRIBE YOUR EVIDENCE**

4. **CALL TO ACTION**
   (THE HOW AND WHY OF IMPLEMENTING YOUR IDEA)

5. **REVEAL THE NEW REALITY**
   (HOW THE LIVES OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS WILL BE AFFECTED IF THEY ACT ON YOUR IDEA)

(MORE TIPS FOR EACH OF THESE COMPONENTS IN THE TEXT-ONLY VERSION OF THIS GUIDE)

**WHATEVER STRUCTURE YOU DECIDE ON, REMEMBER:**

YOUR GOAL IS TO COMMUNICATE AN IDEA EFFECTIVELY, NOT TO TELL A STORY OR EVOKE EMOTIONS. THOSE ARE TOOLS, NOT AN END IN THEMSELVES.

YOUR STRUCTURE SHOULD BE INVISIBLE TO THE AUDIENCE: DON'T TALK ABOUT HOW YOU'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT YOUR TOPIC - JUST TALK ABOUT IT!
**4 CREATE SLIDES**

**Should I use slides?**

- **Will slides:**
  - Clarify information for the audience
  - Distract and confuse the audience

- **Yes!**
  - But keep it simple

- **No!**
  - Stick to your words

*For examples of good slide use, check out the talks by:*

- Dan Phillips
- Jarrett Krosoczka
- Rick Guidotti

*I’ve never made slides before. Where do I start?*

- **Keep it simple!** (Photographic images running edge-to-edge work great)
- **If they involve type, consider working with a designer**
- Seek advice from your event organizer

**What goes in my slides?**

- **Images and photos** (to help the audience remember a person, place, or thing you mention)

- **Graphs and infographics** (keep it clear, even if the content is complex)

- **One point per slide**

- **As little text as possible**

- **Not bullet points**
HOW SHOULD THE SLIDES BE FORMATTED?

* Check with your event organizing team regarding tech specs
* Use the broadcast-safe zones in PowerPoint or Keynote (don't put info or visuals in the far corners)
* Use a font size of 42 or larger
* Use a common sans serif font over a serif font

WHAT IMAGES CAN I USE?

Only ones that you own or have permission to use

* Be careful with this one! *

If you use an image under a Creative Commons license, cite the source at the bottom of your slide.

5 Rehearse

I've said my talk once in my head. Is that enough?

No!
REHEARSE, REHEARSE, REHEARSE!

- With people you love
- With people you fear
- In front of small groups
- In front of large groups
- With peers
- With people who aren't experts in your field

Accept criticism, learn from it, and keep rehearsing.

*Tip: Maintain a natural voice by imagining you're speaking to just one person in a spontaneous one-way conversation.

POSTURE

* Practice standing still. Have a friend watch and stop you from pacing back and forth or shifting your weight from leg to leg.

TIMING

* Time yourself. Practice with a clock winding down in front of you. Do it until you get the timing right every time.

STAGE TIME

* Get as much on stage practice as you can, with as close to actual conditions as possible: countdown clock, confidence monitor (the one on stage that faces you so you can see what slide you're on), clicker and all.

6. Give your talk

Inhale → Exhale → Do it like you practiced

7. Savor the glory

Congratulations! You're done

Bask in the praise you get over how you seemed so relaxed and spontaneous.