

BIG Idea Presentation Tips

1. **Do your homework.** Nobody can give a good presentation without putting in some serious time preparing remarks.
2. **Practice, Practice, Practice.** Practicing your presentation in front of a mirror, friend, parent, and teacher is also helpful because it gives you hints on how to improve your posture, body language and gestures.
4. **Look presentable.** Dress the part. No need to wear a suit, but it's hard for people to take a presentation seriously when you look like someone who just rolled out of bed. Dress in a style that is appropriate for the business you are presenting.
5. **Talk; don't read.** Nobody enjoys seeing a speaker burying his or her face in a script, reading stiffly from a piece of paper. Try to talk from notes only looking down at them occasionally. It's less important that you capture the text word for word than that you present the main ideas in a natural and relaxed way.
6. **Take it slow.** The single biggest mistake inexperienced speakers make is going too fast. Remember that your audience is hearing the material for the first time and isn't nearly as familiar with the topic as you are.
8. **Appear relaxed.** Take short breaks from time to time, and think pleasant thoughts. No one enjoys speakers who are trembling and sweating bullets.
10. **Consider Your Audience.** One of the most important things to remember about public speaking is that you're speaking to an audience. The audience could be potential investors, customers, or partners of your business.
11. **Show your Passion and Connect with your Audience.** Be enthusiastic and honest, and the audience will respond.
12. **Smile and Make Eye Contact with your Audience**
If you smile and make eye contact, you are building rapport, which helps the audience to connect with you and your subject. It also helps you to feel less nervous, because you are talking to individuals, not to a great mass of unknown people.
14. **Remember the Rule for Slideshows**
Contain no more than 10 slides and use a font size of no less than 30 point. As a general rule, slides should be the sideshow to you, the presenter. A good set of slides should be no use without the presenter, and they should definitely contain less, rather than more, information, expressed simply.

*For more help... **View presentations of previous years' finalists page at bigideasd.com**