

Presentation Workshops, One-Pager

EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS:

Overview: This workshop has been designed for researchers that do not have much experience with developing and giving presentations. In addition to covering communication strategy and PowerPoint design, it also attempts to shift researchers' mindset towards viewing the body as a tool to strengthen presentations and better engage audiences—vocal clarity, proper breathing, body language, and vocal health are covered on the first day. Participants should have a paper that is ready to present, though one that has ideally not been presented yet.

Key skills covered: Proper breathing, vocal health, vocal clarity (i.e. speed, diction, and projection), dealing with nervousness, body language, PowerPoint design, communication and storytelling

Workshop Breakdown:

Day 1 (60 minutes): Foundations – Breathing, Vocal Clarity, and Presence

- Introduction
- “What makes a presentation good?” (Discussion, Brainstorming)
- Breathing and projection for every venue
- Vocal health, “do’s and don’ts”
- Body language, “do’s and don’ts”
- Putting it into practice: Reading sample texts utilizing the above skills
- “But what if I’m nervous?” Ways to address presentation anxiety

Day 2 (60 minutes): Communication and Avoiding Death By PowerPoint

- “Why do we present?” (The Who, What, and Why of presentations):
 - Who: Who is the audience? How will communicating to this audience be different than communicating to another audience?
 - What: What are you presenting? What are the key messages/takeaways? How will you highlight these in a clear-to-understand way?
 - Why: Why are you presenting *this* topic? A certain degree of contextualization for the audience will make them more likely to stay engaged.
- Storytelling—“How do we keep our audience engaged?”
- Avoiding “Death By PowerPoint”, “do’s and don’ts”

Day 3 (TBD): Presentations

- Depending on number of participants, 10-15 minute presentations followed by 5 minutes of constructive feedback by instructor and participants.

Jason Means performed in professional plays and musical theatre productions for over seven years, culminating in training at the American Musical Theatre and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in Los Angeles and New York City, where he strengthened techniques for exceptional voice production. Vocal clarity is not limited to the stage, however. Jason has utilized this training as a foundation for his academic pursuits, bringing clarity, confidence, and engagement to every research presentation. He has experience teaching classes and leading workshops on audition and interview preparation at Northwest Children’s Theatre & School and Portland State University.