

## Presentation Skills for the Public Audience

MJ Morse March 9, 2005

### Message

The Primary message is one of passion.

You are excited to be involved in the research or project and you want to share that.

Secondary message is content. WHY is it exciting? WHY is it important and relevant?

### Medium

Presentation establishes a relationship with the audience. What is it?

Respect is a key ingredient

Non-verbal messages

Dress...does it distract?

Stage presence/Drama

Posture ...are you bored?

Blocking

Gesture, pace, intonation

Graphic support

Props & demos

### Some of the Steps

1. Master the content...be clear on the essential elements...burn off the dross
2. Free write your message ahead of time to find the metaphor or different POV
3. Play with it

### Check Points

Does your presentation convey the essential messages?

Are you able to feel the passion for your content?

Have you found a variety of entry points and relevant connections to everyday life?

Have you been able to capture the fact that the work you are doing and sharing is meaningful & important?

Are you out-flowing?

Is your attire neat, clean and non-distracting?

Are you truly present while on stage?

Are you able to maintain good posture without leaning on anything?

Does your presentation bore or thrill you?

Are you able to move and 'own' the space available?

Have you included gestures that amplify or complement your verbal presentation?

Have you varied the pace; have you varied the tonality; have you varied the amplitude?

Are your graphics helpful? Readable? Good at cognitive wayfinding?

Are your props helpful? Fun? Can you engage the audience? Do they work easily?

*MJ Morse, Ph.D. is the Program Manager for Current Science & Technology at the Museum of Science, Boston.*