

HOW TO IMPROVE AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

1. Start your talk with a common experience we've all had and tie it in-- this gets peoples' attention.
2. Ask people for their experiences, thoughts, problems in a particular area (whatever fits) as you go along.
3. Ask open-ended questions which don't have "right or wrong" answers; for example, "How would you like to be a women living in ..." or "Has anyone come up with a solution for that one?"
4. Ask people how they might apply something or use something themselves.
5. Call on quiet people.
6. Give people positive comments when they contribute.
7. Mainly, allow time for discussion. Don't be afraid of a pause at the start. People need time to think about what they want to say.

HOW TO MAKE PROGRAMS MORE FUN FOR YOU AND THE AUDIENCE:

1. Illustrate your points with examples, stories or jokes if you're clever. Or ask your audience to illustrate particular points.
2. Make your program something you're interested in; at least focus on an aspect of it you're interested in.
3. Have fun yourself. Remember, we're all doing this partly to get better at it and the audience is our friends. If you get stage fright, admitting it to the audience helps. Last, but not least, picture your audience all in their underwear or some other embarrassing way. And look for friendly faces.
4. If you're particularly nervous, make props or visual aids your outline. Looking at points on a poster, for instance, is easier than constantly looking up and down at a piece of paper.
5. Try a new teaching aid you've never used before.
6. Get help if you're stuck.