

ACADEMIC ENGLISH SUPPORT DESK NEWSLETTER

Osaka University - Multilingual Expert Program

ENGAGE YOUR AUDIENCE

Engaging your audience is crucial for a memorable and effective presentation, especially when your topics can be complex and challenging to convey. Here are practical ways to make your presentations more interactive:

- **Start with a Question:** Begin your presentation by asking your audience a thought-provoking question. This not only piques interest but also makes them mentally invested in the topic from the start.
- **Incorporate Live Polls:** Utilize tools like Mentimeter or Slido to create live polls. This is a great way to gather instant feedback, understand audience opinions, and make them feel part of the presentation.
- **Use Real-time Q&A Sessions:** Encourage questions throughout your presentation, not just at the end. This keeps your audience engaged and allows you to clarify points on the fly.
- **Include Hands-on Demonstrations:** If possible, integrate demonstrations or practical examples that the audience can physically engage with. This is particularly effective in making abstract concepts tangible.
- **Break into Small Groups:** For workshops or longer sessions, breaking the audience into smaller groups for discussions or activities can foster deeper understanding and interaction.
- **Provide Interactive Handouts:** Handouts with QR codes, interactive elements, or puzzles related to your presentation can keep your audience engaged and offer them a takeaway to remember your talk.



Here are some examples:

Imagine you're presenting on the latest developments in renewable energy technologies:

- **Question:** Start with, "By show of hands, how many of you believe that renewable energy can fully replace fossil fuels by 2040?"
- **Live Poll:** Use a poll to ask, "Which renewable energy source do you think holds the most promise for our future?"
- **Real-time Q&A:** After explaining a complex concept like photovoltaic cell efficiency, ask, "Does anyone need clarification on how these cells convert sunlight into electricity?"
- **Hands-on Demonstration:** If feasible, show a small solar panel and LED setup to demonstrate how sunlight is converted into energy.
- **Small Group Break:** Have groups discuss and then share what they believe are the biggest challenges facing the adoption of renewable energy.
- **Interactive Handouts:** Distribute handouts with QR codes linking to a video of a solar farm in action and a puzzle related to energy conversion efficiency.

Need help with your presentation preparation? Contact the Academic English Support Desk for assistance today.



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