

PUTTING

SPARKLE

IN YOUR CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS



ORED BC has offered training programs to volunteers from industry and government who want to give their time to the classroom. Through these workshops and training sessions, **FORED** staff members have compiled a list of tips based on the successful experiences of classroom volunteers throughout the province. The following suggestions can be adopted by any presenter from any industry and, based on experience, will result in a more effective learning situation.

Content that Works

- Use local examples to connect kids to their community.
- Have key messages in your presentation and reinforce them.
- Don't use the same canned pitch for every classroom visit. Canned goods lack freshness.
- Avoid industry jargon.
- Don't try to cover too much; save some for your next visit.
- Your presentation should relate to the specific curriculum underway in the classroom during the time of your visit. You are on the students' agenda; they are not on yours.

Voice Tips

- Your voice has to project honesty. This means that you should not be too "slick".
- Overreaction should be avoided at all costs. Instead, respond openly and thoughtfully even to questions that you might not like to hear.
- Don't use the classroom to stage your argument with some invisible adversary who may be a critic of your company or organization.

Presentation Techniques

- Visual aids are highly desirable - don't be a talking head.
- Body language should be relaxed - do not adopt a speechmaking style.
- Use humour if possible but make sure it is appropriate and not sarcastic.
- Provide personal stories to show your human side but don't pander.
- Openly invite evaluation from both students and teachers.
- Seek the teacher's advice in advance to ensure that your presentation is age-appropriate and curriculum specific.
- Provide open-ended questions to the students so that they are not inhibited from expressing their own opinions.