

# Giving *Engaging* Presentations



Do you dread sitting through *another* PowerPoint presentation? Do you wish you had alternatives to *giving* another PowerPoint presentation to your audiences? **There are other options...**

## Some Facts about Adults as Learners

- Adults **learn best when they perceive the outcomes of the learning process as valuable**--contributing to their own development, work success, etc.
- Adults are more concerned about the **immediate applicability** of learning.
- Adults are much **more likely to reject** or explain away new information that contradicts their beliefs. So, if you are presenting controversial information, be prepared with good data to make your point.
- Actively involving students in learning instead of simply lecturing to them leads to improved attendance, deeper questioning, **higher retention** and greater lasting interest in the subject.

## Alternatives To Lectures

**Small Work Groups** that report out to whole group – Presenter gives a short presentation and then provides questions, issues, case studies to each group; groups process then each group summaries their work and shares with whole room: provides an opportunity for involvement by all.

**Whole Group Q&A** - The presenter offers some facts then poses a question or makes a statement and facilitates the group answering or responding: provides multiple perspectives to the issue.

**Game Show** – The format is something like Jeopardy or Family Feud: requires a little more work up front, but really engages everyone. If time permits, attendees can also create the questions.

## Consider...

- As you are preparing your presentation, put yourself into the position of your audience. What do they want to learn? What is vital information vs. too much detail? **Prepare crisp, succinct information.**
- When presenting, make eye contact and watch the body language of your audience. Are they understanding you? Do they look confused, bored or engaged? **Be certain to talk WITH your audience, not AT your audience.**
- Consider the reason you are giving the presentation. Are you a Teacher (presenting new information) or a Performance Consultant (showing people how to change behavior)? **Know your purpose for presenting your material.**

