

CTLT's Spring Semester 2006 Teaching Tip for March 1

This week the Center presented “Delivering Effective Presentations,” a workshop featuring a panel of faculty members who shared their expertise about presenting in different classroom situations from large lecture to computer labs. The Center thanks Colleen Boff, Michael Ellison, Brett Holden, and Gene Poor for a valuable workshop experience. (Shameless plug—the workshop will be repeated on Thursday, March 23, at 1:00 p.m.)

Our presentation workshop revealed two resources for us to share that offer advice and tips for academic presentations. William Germano, in his article “The Scholarly Lecture: How to Stand and Deliver,” states that, “once upon a very long time ago, educated people studied rhetoric and oratory. When they spoke, people listened.”

Perhaps today there is not enough focus on the “art” of presentation or for that matter the “art” of learner discussion, but as teachers and learners we may indeed participate in both on a daily basis. Germano reminds us “that people who show up to hear you want to believe that you're smart, interesting, and a good speaker.” And that “technology is a tool, but a tool is not a friend and is often a rival.” His “baker's dozen survival tips for academic speakers” is worth the visit.

<http://chronicle.com/free/v50/i14/14b01501.htm>

The second source we are passing along to you is a blog source written by Terry Teachout (admittedly the name was initially intriguing). Terry lives in Manhattan. He's the drama critic of the *Wall Street Journal* and the music critic of *Commentary*, but he writes about the other arts, too—books, ballet, painting and sculpture, film and TV. His blog “About

last night” has a particular posting entitled, “How not to sound like an idiot.” It is a list of presentation tips that Terry offered to a friend who was doing a book reading. Readings are academic presentations that educators often deliver.

Terry introduces his tip list with the following paragraph:

A speech—and this includes a reading—is a performance. It's theater. The people who came to hear you don't want you to shamble up to the podium, mumble a few unintelligible introductory words, open up a store copy of your book, and stick your nose in it for the next half-hour. They expect you to look and sound prepared—and you'll feel more comfortable if you do.

Like Germano’s article, Teachout’s list is worth the read. His blog is an interesting one for those of you who would like to linger and read about other topics. Terry’s blog is hosted by the *Arts Journal*, a weekday digest of some of the best arts and cultural journalism in the English-speaking world—one of our hot URL picks for teachers and learners.

Visit Terry’s tip list:

<http://www.artsjournal.com/aboutlastnight/archives20040620.shtml#81172>

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