



SUPER SMART
INFORMATION
STRATEGIES

MAKE YOUR POINT:

CREATING POWERFUL

PRESENTATIONS



by Ann Truesdell



Published in the United States of America
by Cherry Lake Publishing
Ann Arbor, Michigan
www.cherrylakepublishing.com

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Truesdell, Ann.

Make your point : creating powerful presentations / by Ann Truesdell.
pages cm — (Information explorer)

Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 978-1-62431-019-5 (lib. bdg.) — ISBN 978-1-62431-043-0 (pbk.) —
ISBN 978-1-62431-067-6 (e-book)

1. Public speaking—Juvenile literature. I. Title.
PN4129.L5.T78 2013
808.5'1—dc23

2012034742

Cherry Lake Publishing would like to acknowledge the work of The Partnership
for 21st Century Skills. Please visit www.21stcenturyskills.org for more
information.

Printed in the United States of America
Corporate Graphics Inc.
January 2013
CLSP12

A NOTE TO PARENTS
AND TEACHERS: Please
remind your children
how to stay safe online
before they do the
activities in this book.

A NOTE TO KIDS:
Always remember
your safety comes
first!

TRY THIS!

As you sort through your information and prepare for your presentation, it is usually helpful to create an outline so you can see what you are going to say and when. You might do this on paper or on a computer.

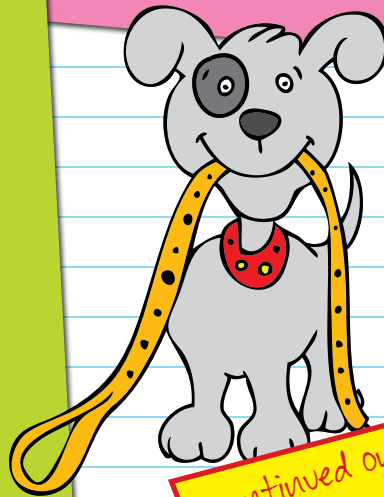
To get a copy of this activity, visit www.cherrylakepublishing.com/activities.

BRAINSTORM

Let's practice outlining a presentation. Think about a topic that you already know a lot about. Maybe you play soccer, or perhaps you are very interested in trains or dogs. Try to brainstorm three main **subtopics** that you would want to speak about in your presentation. What information would fall under each subtopic? Next, begin to organize your information. You might choose to make an outline like the one below:

Main Topic: Adopting a Dog

- I. Subtopic: Choosing the Best Dog for Your Family
 - A. Different breeds and types of dogs
 - B. Puppies versus adult dogs
- II. Subtopic: Where to Get a Dog
 - A. Pet stores
 - B. Breeders
 - C. Shelters
- III. Subtopic: Things to Consider Before You Adopt a Dog
 - A. Cost of Keeping a dog
 - B. Time it takes to care for a dog



continued on
the next page

As you outline, you may find that you want to rearrange some parts of your presentation. For example, maybe you decide that it would be best to talk about "Things to Consider Before You Adopt a Dog" in the beginning of your presentation. You might also choose to leave some things that you know about your topic out of your presentation. For instance, you might know a lot about how to teach puppies new tricks, but that doesn't belong in a presentation about adopting a dog.



According to RaisingSpot.com, dogs can cost \$660 to \$5,670 or more in just their first year!

It takes a lot of time to care for a dog. Dogs need regular feeding, exercise, training, and trips to the bathroom. They need even more attention when they are puppies.

There are other ways to organize your information, too. Try writing each fact on a separate note card. Then lay your note cards out on the table in front of you and start to arrange them. You will notice that some note cards seem to go together. For example, a note card about the cost of keeping a dog and another note card about the time it takes to care for a dog might seem related. This shows that you should have a subtopic about things to consider before adopting a dog. From there, you can start to see your subtopics develop, and you can rearrange your note cards into the order that you want to present them to your audience.

TRY THIS!

Some good places to find images include:

www.loc.gov/pictures
The Library of Congress has historical pictures, prints, and documents.

www.clipart.dk.com
DK's picture library site offers thousands of images that are perfect for schoolwork.

As with any Web search, remember the rules of Internet etiquette and safety. Ask a parent, teacher, or librarian for help if you need it. When you find an image you would like to use, make note of the image's URL so that you can give credit to its owner.

<http://search.creativecommons.org>
Creative Commons' CC Search looks for free media on other Web sites.

<http://pics4learning.com>
Pics4Learning is a safe and free image library that's a great resource for teachers and students.

<http://images.google.com/hosted/life>
Google hosts millions of historic photos from Life magazine, from the 1750s to today.

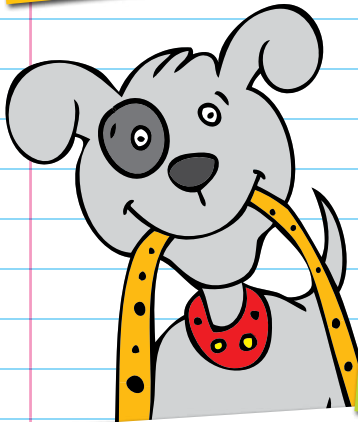


To get a copy of this activity, visit www.cherrylakepublishing.com/activities.

TRY THIS!

Sometimes teachers ask you to write a paper and then present your information to the class. This can make it very tempting to simply copy and paste entire paragraphs from your paper onto a slide.

Chapter Two:
Showing Off



That mistake often leads to one that was mentioned earlier: reading right from the slide! Let's practice avoiding this presentation blunder. Take a look at the paragraph below. Can you turn this paragraph into bullet points for a slide? Can you think of any images that should be included?

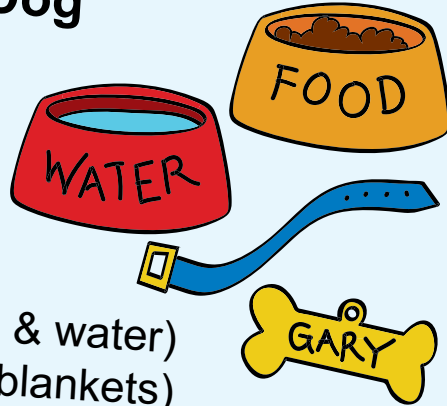
Try to buy supplies for your new dog before bringing him home. First, you will need to get food. Be sure that it is the right food for your new dog's age (puppy, adult, or senior). You will also need two bowls for your dog's food and water. Consider where your dog will sleep. You may need a crate and bedding, such as old blankets. You will also need a collar, a leash, and an ID tag. You can sometimes get ID tags at pet stores or at the shelter where you adopt your dog. It's a good idea to bring the leash and collar with you when you adopt your dog.

continued on
the next page

Your slide might look something like this:

Supplies for Your New Dog

- Food
- Collar
- Leash
- ID tag
- 2 bowls (food & water)
- Bedding (old blankets)



How was your slide similar to or different from the one above? Are you surprised by any details that were left off the slide? Why do you think some of the details in the paragraph were left off?

To get a copy of this activity, visit www.cherrylakepublishing.com/activities.



TRY THIS!

A poorly designed slideshow can ruin a presentation. Take a look at the slides below and make a list of suggestions or improvements to make each slide better. Check the answers at the end when you are done. How did your suggestions compare?

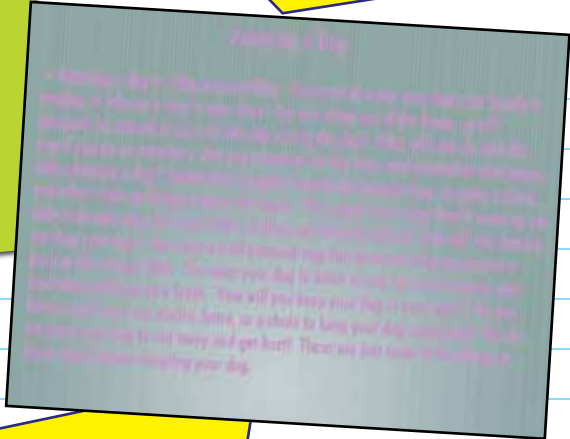
Chapter Three:
Looking Good



SAMPLE 2

ANSWERS

SAMPLE 1



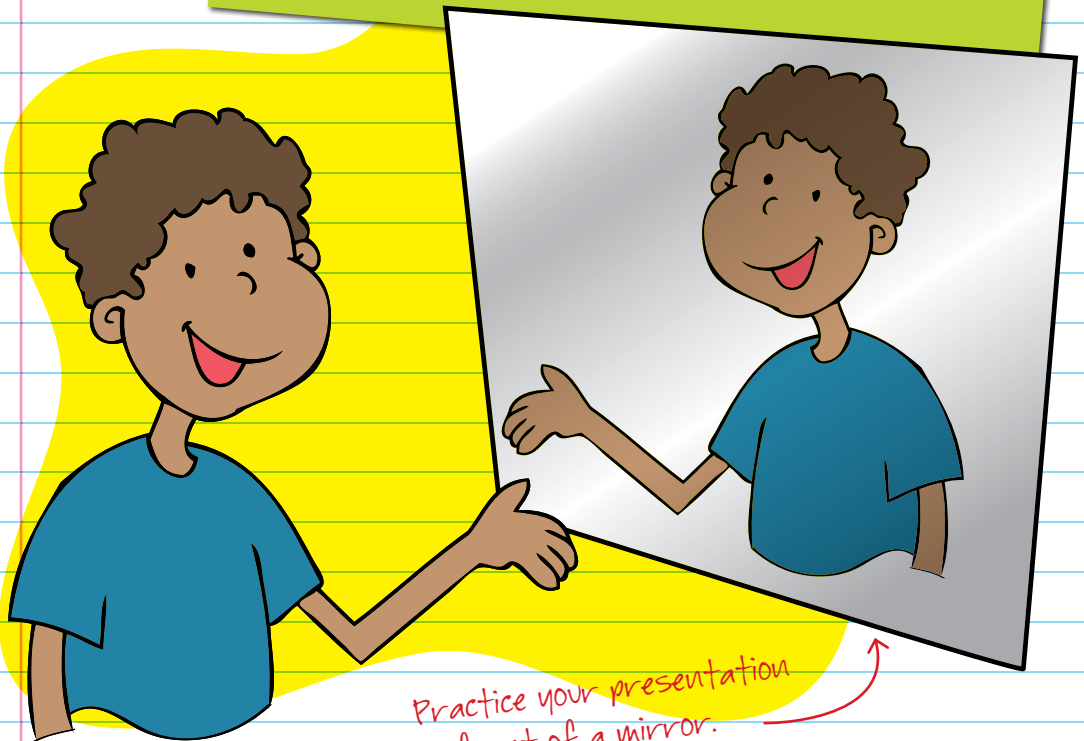
SAMPLE 3



1. Use a different color scheme for better contrast, with a solid background. Turn the paragraph into bullet points. Make the font bigger. Make the title more specific to the information being presented on the slide.
2. Have only 1 or 2 pieces of clip art—not 20! Make sure that the clip art fits the topic. Use a more basic font, because cursive can be hard to read.
3. This is a slide about a serious topic, so you should use a more serious font and background. Something more basic would be appropriate. The image should fit the mood, too—maybe a photo of an older dog?

TRY THIS!

Tell a story you're familiar with. Practice how to stand, use hand gestures, and answer questions about the story. Consider what visual aids you would use while telling the story. Do this in front of a mirror or another person. What did you do well? What needs work to make you the ultimate storyteller?



Practice your presentation in front of a mirror.

Congratulations, Information Explorer! You are on your way to becoming an excellent public speaker. Use these tips, remember to practice, and captivate your audience!