

Presentation Skills Needs Assessment Questions  
Current SEED Program Participant Responses

Participant: [REDACTED]

1. What are your strengths as a presenter? **Telling an anecdote or story**
2. Where/how did you develop those strengths? **Presenting at conferences and through undergrad & grad engineering courses that integrated presentations (plus feedback) into their curriculum**
3. What presentation skills would you like to learn or improve? **Fielding/answering questions and engaging the audience through the presentation of dry material**
4. Are you mostly a visual, kinesthetic, or auditory learner? **Auditory (with Visual as a close second)**
5. Which of these is the most challenging for you? Why? **(a) Delivering presentations, especially for formal design reviews, because there is a lot of content that I don't know how to present (when I get bored presenting it myself) and I feel like it is not possible to be engaging for 100+ slides**
  - a. Developing content for presentation (i.e., figuring out what I'm going to say)
  - b. Designing presentations (i.e., making PowerPoint slides)
  - c. Delivering presentations
6. Which of these do you enjoy the most? Why? **(b) Designing presentations, because it is rewarding to create something that communicates what I am thinking or trying to deliver**
  - a. Developing content for presentation (i.e., figuring out what I'm going to say)
  - b. Designing presentations (i.e., making PowerPoint slides)
  - c. Delivering presentations
7. Is there anything else I should know, if my goal is to help you be a more effective presenter? **I think the type of presentation, the style, and approach differs based on the occasion or audience. Is it important to be engaging for all these scenarios and if so, how do I do that?**

Presentation Skills Needs Assessment Questions  
Current SEED Program Participant Responses

**Participant:** [REDACTED]

1. What are your strengths as a presenter?

I'd like to think that I speak at a steady pace (i.e. not too fast).

2. Where/how did you develop those strengths?

I always rehearse my presentations, and I'm thoughtful of what I have to say next.

3. What presentation skills would you like to learn or improve?

Maybe how to be more comfortable without looking at the slides. Or knowing how best to concisely state things on the slides (not writing too much on the slides).

4. Are you mostly a visual, kinesthetic, or auditory learner?

Visual.

5. Which of these is the most challenging for you? Why?

- a. Developing content for presentation (i.e., figuring out what I'm going to say)
- b. Designing presentations (i.e., making PowerPoint slides)
- c. Delivering presentations

They're each challenging in its own way but if I had to choose perhaps A. Because I'm always debating whether I'm saying too much, too little, or if it's appropriate at all. Lately in my career I'm giving different types of presentations to different audiences and it's challenging to understand what the audience wants/needs. This becomes easier if I'm presenting to the same type of audience.

6. Which of these do you enjoy the most? Why?

- a. Developing content for presentation (i.e., figuring out what I'm going to say)
- b. Designing presentations (i.e., making PowerPoint slides)
- c. Delivering presentations

I don't enjoy any of it. ☺ I might enjoy delivering presentations if I was giving the same type of presentation over and over to just different audiences, like a teacher or instructor teaching about a topic that I enjoy.

7. Is there anything else I should know, if my goal is to help you be a more effective presenter?

Can't think of anything right now.

**Participant:** [REDACTED]

1. What are your strengths as a presenter?

## Presentation Skills Needs Assessment Questions Current SEED Program Participant Responses

Storytelling, connecting with the audience

### 2. Where/how did you develop those strengths?

Experience? Getting positive re-enforcement in post-presentation debriefs when I have done those things well

### 3. What presentation skills would you like to learn or improve?

I feel like I generally struggle with my vocal projection (volume) and energy level

### 4. Are you mostly a visual, kinesthetic, or auditory learner?

Kinesthetic (which I'm not sure I knew before, but took an online test just now!)

### 5. Which of these is the most challenging for you? Why?

Developing content. I feel like I often suffer from "writers block". It is worse for SEED presentations than for technical reviews that have a set content.

- a. Developing content for presentation (i.e., figuring out what I'm going to say)
- b. Designing presentations (i.e., making PowerPoint slides)
- c. Delivering presentations

### 6. Which of these do you enjoy the most? Why?

Designing the presentation. My default habit has been to make the slides just be an outline of what I'm going to say. So once I figured out what I wanted to say, making the slides fell pretty simply from there. I have been working on making my slides more visually appealing and that has been a fun exercise.

- a. Developing content for presentation (i.e., figuring out what I'm going to say)
- b. Designing presentations (i.e., making PowerPoint slides)
- c. Delivering presentations

### 7. Is there anything else I should know, if my goal is to help you be a more effective presenter?

I wasn't crazy about the APPEL presentation skills course, so thank you for developing something new! I did think that the video recording was valuable, even though I hated every second of it. The best presentation skills class I took was part of a leadership development program at Smith College a few years ago. This lady (<https://peggyklaus.com>) lead a workshop on Executive Presence and speaking skills and she was phenomenal, albeit completely insane. I can look through my notes, but my take-aways were so specific to what I feel I need to work on that I'm not sure how useful it would be for you

Presentation Skills Needs Assessment Questions  
Current SEED Program Participant Responses

**Participant:** ■