

How to be a 'loud' speaker

PUBLIC speaking is both an art and martial art. Martial art because one may receive slaps instead of claps for wasting others' time.

Since the invention of mike, people have wrestled to be 'Mike Tyson' of the stage. But very few of them have succeeded. Success as a speaker depends upon two things.

Either you are a speaker who is made (by practice) or you are a speaker who is readymade (a born orator).

If you are a latter, you need not worry. But if former (who needs practice), better hurry, for you might be invited to speak anytime.

Here are a few tips

1. Don't write the speech yourself. Get it written by someone who is educated! (meaning well-educated).

2. If the audience knows only Hindi, your speech should be strictly in English. By this, the audience will be busy guessing, and awake too.

3. Wear old clothes for they will be in tatters once the speech is over.

4. Many a speaker commits the mistake of arriving on time or before time. It gives the impression that the speaker is 'Navra'.

5. The audience will clap vigorously when you stand up to deliver the speech. Don't get carried away. It's winter time.

6. Before you begin your speech, order for the closure of 'Exit Door' as nobody should escape in between your speech.

7. When you are mid-way in your speech, notice various kinds of distractions, and their implications.

* Some will yawn. Don't feel bad because this is what the audience have come for: a sound sleep.

* Some will look at the watch; or even shake it to make sure it's moving. It's a sure sign to wind up the speech or the audience would blow up.

* Some will clap when you least expect. Don't be mistaken that he liked your quote. He might have thought that you have ended or ending the speech, when you aren't.

* Some will stand up and will try to walk out. Don't think they are going out to answer nature's call. In fact, they might be searching for an emergency exit.

* Some will try to interrupt you by asking a question.

Don't get angry at them. Have sympathy as they might be the only persons awake listening to you.

* Some will go to extremes. They would search for something in their bags. Don't expect them to take out a pen and paper.

They might be searching for tomatoes and eggs. If they are bending, expect chap-pals.

8. When you utter the words "Finally, I would like to conclude..." see the faces of the people in the audience. It almost glows with radiance.

9. When you finally end and leave the stage, the audience will go wild with applause. There are two reasons for that.

— One is that they feel greatly relieved that the nightmare ended.

— The second is because they know that you are not going to come back on stage again.

11. The audience will, at times, chorus: 'Once More'. No need to get flattered as 'Once More' could mean they hardly understood what you said and want to give you a second chance.

—Akhil Chopra

