

I have received extensive training in public speaking, story boarding and working before a camera. Jean asked me to write up some tips that could be shared. So, here goes

Tip 1. Rehearse and Relax. You are being asked to make materials about subject matter where you are experts. In some senses, then, you have been rehearsing for you podcast for quite some time. Be sure to also rehearse the specific lesson you are podcasting. Then relax. You are the expert, you are the teachers, and now you get to be the star. It is fun and your students will love it.

Tip 2. Keep it short. It is arguable that the media world is one of decreasing attention span, so don't overwhelm your students. Besides which, if you want to update something, a small discrete work is easier to than a large one. So thin in bite sized chunks, not whole meals.

Tip 3. Don't talk so fast. Live communication is 80% non-verbal. Gestures, expression and body language may not be available in a podcast. Make sure your speech patterns make up for this lost information. It is like reading a child a bedtime story.

Tip 4. If you have to work in front of a camera relax. Pretend there is someone behind the camera that you are talking with. Practice in front of a mirror. If you can talk and watch yourself without too much embarrassment you are getting ready.

Tip 5. Remember that these are your students, not your audience. If you materials help them learn they will use and appreciate them. If your materials don't fulfill that fundamental purpose then no amount of wit, style and flash will make students happy about spending time with your podcasts.