

General Session Tips

- Wear your TA or Velocity t-shirt!
- Act like you want to be there! The class will respond to whatever example you set for them. If you look excited and engaged, they will be excited and engaged! But if you look like you're bored and don't care, then they are going to be bored and not care.
- Put things in your own words – DO NOT READ directly from the guide/note cards.
- Look at whoever is talking – give whoever is talking your undivided attention. Don't review your notes, or play with papers, or start side conversations with others.
- ENCOURAGE the students every chance you get -- NEVER put them down, NEVER pick on them. Always do your best to make them feel good about themselves.
- Share your own life experiences on this topic as much as possible. If you have been through something that relates to a question that is asked, feel free to share that experience with the class.
- If the students are answering questions, repeat their answers back to the entire class -- if something is said and only you can hear it, it does the rest of the class NO good (and that's why we're in there -- for the class).
- "I don't know" is a perfectly honest & acceptable answer for you to give. It's perfectly okay to say, *"Wow – that's a tough situation – thank you for asking/sharing that – I don't know what I'd do. Does anyone else have some suggestions or advice for this person?"*. And let your fellow students help you address the question/situation.
- Wear your school nametag, and don't chew gum.
- When confronted with a difficult question, just give it one (maybe two) solid answers, and move on. Don't continue answering the same question over & over. It sounds like you don't know what you're talking about. Also, remind them that you aren't experts, and that you are just sharing from your own experiences and heart.
- When you have a disruptive, argumentative student in the class (one who keeps saying, "What if..."), then revert to the previous suggestion. Chances are, all he really intends to do is argue. You can't change or convince him. You can just say something like, *"You are old enough to make your own choices, and while what you have chosen is fine for you, we all have chosen something different."* And move on.
- Be prepared – know your parts!! If you are prepared, the session will be more effective, and things will flow smoothly during the session.
- When you have volunteers come up, ask them their name and call them by it. Thank them afterwards and use their name then, too. This makes them feel special and it shows them that they matter to you.
- When doing a demonstration, make sure you explain the point of it. This eliminates confusion.
- Don't make sarcastic comments that will make the students feel bad – if you hurt their feelings, they will not respect you or listen to you. For instance:
 - *"Don't everybody speak at once!"*
 - *"I can't believe none of you has a question."*
- Feel free to interject your comments – if you have anything to say, then say it. This isn't a formal presentation. You are all different and have different experiences – one person may relate more easily with one of you than another.
- Don't panic. If something goes wrong, or your parts get out of order, it's okay! Just have fun and enjoy yourself.
- If something is going well, don't stop it.
- Go back to class after your session is over ☺ !!!