

10 TIPS for SPEAKING in X SPACES

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1: LISTEN

The BEST speakers are also the BEST listeners. I recommend listening to a Space AT LEAST 5-15 minutes BEFORE requesting to speak.

This will give you a good sense of what kind of space it is; Is it formal where the host is calling on HANDS that are RAISED and everyone takes turns speaking in an organized fashion?

OR is it informal where it's just a FLOWING conversation where everyone is just chiming in with interjection and HOT takes?

Active LISTENING will also make sure that whatever YOU have to SAY will be RELEVANT to where they're at in the CONVERSATION.

2: BE READY

Know what you WANT to say BEFORE you say it. Make sure that you have a COMPLETE thought or question formed BEFORE it's your turn to speak.

This will help you NOT stutter or use FILLER words (uh, uhm, uh) and help you speak in complete sentences. In turn, it will make it EASIER for listeners to FOLLOW along with what you're trying to say.

3: BE CONCISE

Say what you want to say in the SIMPLEST way possible. Don't OVER-EXPLAIN. Most of us have SHORT attention spans. Keep that in mind when speaking to your audience.

If you RAMBLE on for more than a more than 1-2 minutes, most people SHUT DOWN and are just waiting for you to finish. It's not fun for ANYONE.

4: HAVE THICK SKIN

This is the internet. Either by nature or intentionally, someone WILL offend you. Shrug it off, focus on your thoughts, and don't let FEELINGS dictate your behavior.

Having a SENSE of HUMOR is HUGE in Spaces. If you don't take yourself TOO seriously, it will endear you with the audience and with the other speakers on the panel.

We're ALL human and not perfect. Humility goes a LONG way in Spaces.

5: BREATH

Public SPEAKING is right up there with fear of DEATH for MOST people.

If you find yourself being NERVOUS, spend a few minutes taking slow, DEEP BREATHES before you speak. This will help you RELAX during speaking and keep you CONFIDENT in your words without stuttering as much.

6: PRACTICE

Just like ANYTHING else, the more you PRACTICE speaking in Spaces, the BETTER you will get at it.

If BIG Spaces make you nervous, spend some time getting used to it speaking in SMALLER spaces for a while. Before long, speaking in these settings will become second nature for you.

7: RESPECT

Show your SPACES HOSTS some RESPECT. It's difficult to manage these broader conversations. If a host is signaling that they want to let someone else speak, let them.

There's NOTHING more ANNOYING than someone who hogs the microphone and won't give it back.

If it's a DEBATE or argument YOU'RE in, focus on WHAT is being said and NOT who is saying it.

Speaking on the merits of someone's words are ALWAYS better than attacking the messenger, trust me.

Interject and don't interrupt.

If hosts see that you can operate with DECORUM, they will give you the chance to speak to NOTABLE public figures you might not otherwise have the chance to.

8: READ THE ROOM

Having great SITUATIONAL AWARENESS will make you a valuable asset as a speaker. You're able to adapt in a conversation and not get stuck repeating the SAME talking points it will make you a much more INTERESTING speaker.

Try not to HIJACK the topic of the Space. If you have something you're passionate about, bring it up WHEN it's RELEVANT to the conversation. If it's NOT relevant, bring it up on a different day.

9: DON'T PRESENT YOUR RESUME

Lots of times, we have BACKGROUNDS that are relevant to the TOPIC at hand. It's boring when people OVER-qualify themselves prior to getting to their point.

If your background is VERY RELEVANT, give a BRIEF summary of what it is and then get STRAIGHT to your point.

10: BE YOURSELF

Listeners are DRAWN to AUTHENTICITY in Spaces. Be honest, candid, and REAL when presenting yourself. If you're trying to put on a FRONT of who YOU ARE, people will detect it and NOT take you SERIOUSLY.

It's not JUST okay to be YOU. It's PREFERRED.