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Lecture: 12

Breaking the Ice: Impress to Express

Good morning friends and welcome back to NPTEL online lectures on Public Speaking.

Friends, till now you have been listening about the various requisites of public speaking and I

do hope that you are now in a better frame of mind. You actually are more prepared and you

feel yourself bubbling now as to how with the sort of knowledge that you have gathered, how

you can yourself start speaking.

Of course, many of you might be bubbling, many of you might be excited enough as to when

to start. But as I said in the beginning is the end and in the end is the beginning. You

remember I think these were the last words in the previous lecture. So, now many of you

might be thinking to start but before you start, you also have to understand one more

important thing as how to start.

Because as a public speaker you want to express but in order to express, you first have to

impress, whom? Your audience members. And how can you impress your audience members

with your clothing with the tone with the technology or with some other gadgets? No, there

are some other things as well and that is why I have titled this lecture as **Breaking the Ice**.

You have all warmed yourself up with a lot of information. Now you have to break the ice

and how to break the ice meaning thereby how to start what could be the first impression so

that you can be considered to be an effective speaker. Most of you might be thinking is first

impression required. Of course, it is required and if it is required why is it. So, important can

you accept a speaker who is in a very different sort of dress very casual the hair unkempt.

The facial expressions contorted fine and the expressions also lazy lip movements and many

more. Will you really accept them as a better speaker in the first instance, no. So, first

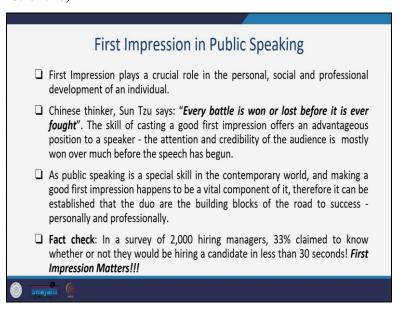
impression is very much important.

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My dear friends, please remember one thing. A good first impression as J K Rowling says, can work wonders. Every public speaker can win or can lose in the very first instance. Because you never get a second chance to make a first impression but how to make a first impression. What are the requisites to make the first impression? In this lecture of today, we shall be underlining those small things which most of us often skip over and then we realize only lately that these things also attach a lot of importance to somebody becoming an effective public speaker who can be remembered for months for years.

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Now, what is that first impression in public speaking? As I have been saying that the first impression has to play a very crucial role in the personal, social, as well as professional development of an individual. Remember the speaker that is still echoing in your minds, that

is still stamped in your memory. What was so distinct about him fine and you will find the

answer to why in the very first moment the person impressed you so much.

One of the major Chinese thinkers named Sun Tzu says--- "Every battle is won or lost before

it is ever fought." I mean a prepared soldier can display a better triumph on his face first

before he goes to the battlefield. So, preparedness is a must--- the skill of casting a good

impression it actually lends you an edge as a speaker, fine. And what is that grabbing the

attention fine attracting the attention.

And, we have already talked about the credibility of the audience because on many occasions

you simply go to listen to a speaker who actually is at a lofty position, who is celebrity who is

a man for whom one goes to thousands and thousands of miles to listen to. Or one spends a

lot of time over a channel or radio or whatsoever. But are all of us having the same sort of

celebrity status? No, especially my young friends those who are novice.

And trying their hands on speaking as a public speaker they have to practice more in advance

before they go to speak before they break the ice. So, the audience is mostly won over much

before the speech has begun. You can also go back and find in your mind's eye how a certain

speaker cast a spell on you. So, public speaking since it is a special skill in the contemporary

world and it makes a first impression happen.

Because that is a vital component. Therefore, it can be established that both the speaker as

well as the listener they actually build blocks of the road to success. Now, there is another

word that has crept in-- building blocks. And these building blocks what are these building

blocks will come to that. So, let us have a fact check in a survey of 2000 hiring managers,

33% claimed to know whether or not they would be hiring a candidate just in less than 30

seconds.

Many of you who are school and college students might have found if you have ever visited

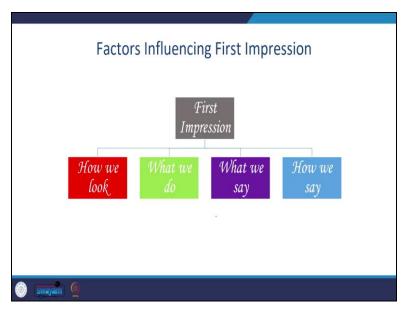
the placement cell, you might have found that these people, I mean, the recruiters they just in

the first instance. Their eye is finally fixed on a person whether they are going to take him or

they are going to reject him. So, first impression matters, my dear friend and how does this

first impression matter. What are these factors?

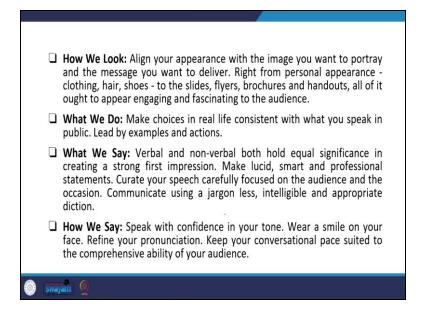
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We have talked about the building blocks but before we go into the details of those let us actually take a quote by Dale Carnegie where he underlines four things-- what are those four things? How we look as a speaker before your lips open up your face is seen is not it. You are visually seen you display yourself visually. So, how we look what we do find your action fine. So, throughout right from the; beginning when you appear at the stage.

When you appear before the audience when you are behind the days when you are in a public soul. What we say and how we say I mean utterance we have been saying because it is a course of public speaking. Now how we look, I mean, appearance does appearance matter. Of course but appearances can be deceptive also at times. We groom ourselves is not it we groom ourselves and we take utmost care when we are grooming ourselves.

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So, what one needs to do as a public speaker is align the appearance with the image you want to portray and the message that you want to deliver. How is that possible? It actually depends upon the occasion what sort of occasion, what is the topic, what is the exigency of the situation? Right from your personal appearance because personal appearance has so many things we shall be discussing in detail.

When you go to the non-verbal section, your clothing your hair your shoes your slides your flyers, brochures, handouts all of these things ought to appear to be engaging and fascinating to the audience you know in an audience. Now if you find their mind set the audience members do not have any individuality. They are the group people, they are the men they are the mass, they are the crowd.

Now, the crowd simply stares at you looks at. So, in the first instance what you need to do is you need to align with your appearance. And here as I have been saying your content and the contents that you bring actually matter a lot. What we do your action you are actually going to make some choice you are going to have some action, and whatever you are going to say, what you do--- is it consistent with what you speak in public?

I mean every audience member will judge you on the basis of your action, you cannot be fooled them for a long time. Whatever you say, how true are your words, fine, and even this can be interpreted in different way as to how you act as a public speaker. What you say I mean your words your language and what you say not only verbally but non-verbally also, fine? Both your verbal and non-verbal they actually carry important weightage fine.

Special significance in creating the very first impression one has to make as a public speaker lucid I mean clear smart and professional statements. That is why it is said we shall discuss it when we come to language part that when you are going to say it, say it, my dear friend say it clearly, do not camouflage it in words, in the jungle of your speech, curate your speech carefully focused on the audience and the occasion.

For what occasion are you speaking, on which topic are you speaking? It is always better if as a public speaker you restrict yourself to using a jargon- free language. I think all of you are aware of jargon. Jargons are the technical terms people of a particular profession of a particular discipline they are aware of the jargons but as I have been saying that audience

members comprise a multilingual, multi-cultural diverse group. They are not aware of many

of the jargons that a public speaker uses.

So, you have to use a language that is intelligible and also appropriate diction, fine. Here,

focus has to be given on how you utter how much of stress. This actually depends upon the

way you maintain the distance between words sentences threads of thoughts and of course, on

the pronunciation part, you have to be very clear, my dear friend. How we say it is not only

what we say when we say what we say you are confined to language.

But how you say it- are you confident? Is the tone formal is the tone cordial fine it is in this

regard better to wear a smile fine you have to be very cordial, fine, bring a smile that costs

you nothing but gives you a lot of dividends, my dear friends, fine? A person who does not

smile is considered by the audience members to be very serious and not a man of the crowd.

So, it is always better to wear a smile on your face, refine your pronunciation.

Of course, this is going to be a very complex process those who did not have the opportunity

of getting educated through different English medium schools in all when they use language

especially a foreign language, they have certain hesitations but still they can manage by

practicing through a good dictionary through a good thesaurus. And nowadays there are quite

a good number of software also available that can actually help you learn the proper pattern

the proper pronunciation.

It is always better if a public speaker makes his tone conversational, fine, because you know

one does not want as an audience member to be imposed upon. And that is why time and

again you might have heard people saying friends fine I think I am hitting at the right point

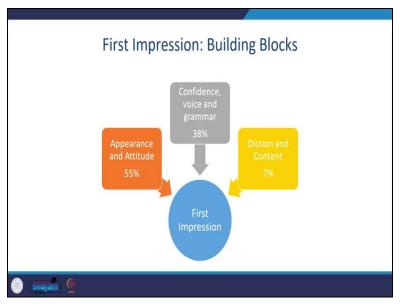
and if I am not please catch me. Let me know from you that if I am accessible, if my thoughts

are being conveyed properly.

And in and between you find that he makes use of certain tags certain confirmatory notes. So,

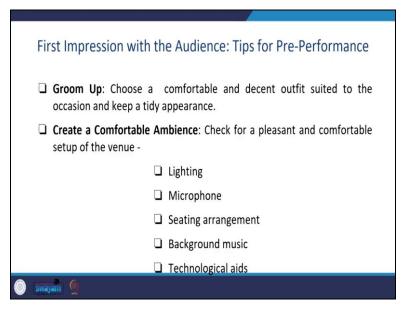
let your tone be conversational, suited to the comprehensive ability of your audience friends.

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Now we had been saying that when we talk about the first impression, there are certain building blocks what are these building blocks. I mean, if you have a look at it, it actually talks about the non-verbals. And in this regard I am actually reminded of a famous psychologist as well as anthropologist, who says that when it comes to your diction, it is only seven percent of your diction that matters. 38% actually is related to the confidence level your voice and your grammar, fine? And remaining 55% these are actually non-verbals which comprise your appearance, your face, your eyes, your dress, sense, fine and also your attitude your shoes your look fine how you maintain eye contact in all these play a vital role as building blocks.

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Now if we have to focus on the first impression with the audience, can there be some room for the tips? Because you know what we see what we hear as audience members goes through

several processes that are in the background. If you really want to make your mark as a public speaker, before you can make your first impression, not only are you going to groom yourself up in a very comfortable. No, when it comes to dress one has to wear a dress that is quite comfortable not a dress that is very dazzling that is very shining fine rather the outfit should be decent and it should be suited to the occasion fine. One always have to keep a sort of appearance that is actually clear, that is attractive and that is soothing. Now. when you are going to create a sort of comfortable ambience one should actually ensure beforehand that there are certain things which cannot be neglected, what are they?

Because as a public speaker you also need a sort of confidence--- the confidence oozes out of you at every pore. How can you build that confidence up? You have to ensure that there is proper lighting fine I hear when I am speaking I feel myself a bit comfortable because the lighting is fine the microphone is also quite cordial and helpful rather. The seating arrangements you know as a speaker a speaker gets a lot of enthusiasm when he finds people sitting properly, not in scattered groups.

When you come across a crowd comprising thousands of people, you know half of your energy actually is bolstered, my dear friend. And you must also see that no external music or external forces external noises are coming because they are going to lessen your self-confidence. If you are making use of technology, please ensure that the technological tools are appropriate and they are in working condition all these actually will help you a lot.

And when you are going to deliver, I mean, the day when you are going to deliver your talk but before that have you not made a lot of preparation have you not planned your speech and this planning your speech takes several factors into consideration. The first is that you know the occasion you also know the audience members. So, when you combine the occasion and the audience members you will find that you can do that only when you have done a lot of research.

Why a particular person like you have been called to deliver a talk on this does your expertise fall in that category if it is. So, and then what are the audience members' expectations. So, when you are planning your speech, beforehand highlight the key messages. Audience members who are actually waiting for you actually are having a lot of excitement and in the

very first look when they cast the first look on the speaker, fine, the speaker should also see

to it that he displayed a sort of confidence and cordiality.

One must as a speaker define one's objectives rather leaving the crowd thinking of what the

speaker is going to say. Of course, this charisma can be done for some time but not for a long

time, my dear friend. One has to prepare a proper beginning. We will discuss what we mean

by proper beginning there are several variants there are several thoughts about how to begin

fine. There are several ways and then one should also plan that when one is going to close

one's talk or speech, it has to be memorable.

Because you have certain things that the audience will carry, they will have something to take

away. what is the takeaway of this talk, what can they remember? And as a public speaker I

know most of you will practice your communication skills. When I say communication skills,

I actually am stressing upon your vocabulary, what sort of vocabulary will be more

impressive, how do I articulate, fine?

Have I really researched, have I really rehearsed, have I really taken the feedback of my

friends? And if I have taken the feedback of my friends, am I in a position to keep it natural?

have I worked on the feedback also as a public speaker you cannot ignore all these things.

And moreover, time is an important factor, my dear friend whenever you are invited to

deliver a talk, you are given time. So, much of the preparation when you are doing, you

should also take into consideration whether your entire content is covered in the time that has

been given to you.

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	☐ Plan your Speech: Research about your audience. Plan your speech beforehand; highlight the key messages; define your objectives, prepare a strong beginning and a memorable ending.	
		Practise Communication Skills - Work on your vocabulary and articulation. Practise your speech in front of a mirror or your friends and work on the feedback. Keep it natural.
		Scheme a Strategic Pre-Event Promotion: Market your speech and your ideas ahead of the event through social media tools like Facebook, Twitter hashtags and online campaigning.
		Arrange for takeaways: Target to achieve a lingering effect on your audience by providing them with catchy takeaways - summary brochures, CDs/DVDs pertaining to the message of your speech.
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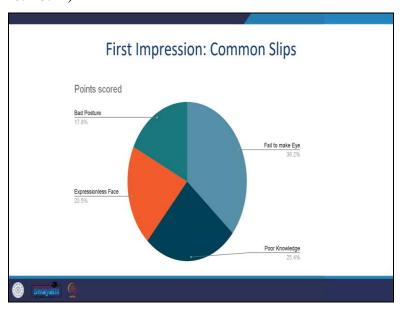
So, scheme a strategic pre-event promotion sometimes you are called by an advertising agency sometime your speech has to be marketed. And if such events are there and if it is only a social function if you are going to do it through social media tools like Facebook, Twitter, Hashtags and online campaigning, I think you need to clear yourself of all these factors that can play a vital role when you are going to communicate in public.

Now one must always ensure that one leaves something as a takeaway for the audience because after your talk is over your presentation is over your speech is over what will the audience members remember. Target to achieve a lingering effect on your audience by providing them with some catchy takeaways. We'll come to that how much depends upon the title or the topic of your talk, summary, brochures.

Sometimes many people also can provide CDs, DVDs pertaining to the entire content of the message. Some people also provide the handouts depending upon your content, occasion and audience. All these things can vary. Now where do we fall or where do we slip, where do we run sort of as a public speaker, fine? In building the first impression there are certain common slips, what are they? Bad posture it has been found out that 17.8% of speakers actually do not work on this area. Rather in public speaking fine what is important is a good posture. What do I mean by posture you will find that sometimes for the other when a person is speaking as a public speaker one is not able either to stand properly or to move properly or to connect himself properly to the audience members. The second most detrimental thing is that many speakers they do not spend time on making proper eye- contact.

37% people fail to make eye-contact and this has been found mostly in the young and aspiring speakers who are still novices and have to work hard on trying to establish a proper eye contact. We shall devote more time to it in the non-verbal section where we shall tell you what exactly we mean by eye- contact and how we can maintain an eye- contact throughout our talk.

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It has also been found that around 21% people are expressionless. We call those people as having stolid. What do I mean by stolid--- having no expression at all? That is why it is said please cast a smile, fine. A smile costs nothing but gives a lot, fine. But one should not keep on smiling throughout. The smile actually eases the tension that is between the speaker and the listener and then many of them, I mean around 26% people are not properly prepared. They are not well prepared for their talk and all these can actually help even a good content become or end in a sort of futility, my dear friend. That actually ends as a failure. So, as a public speaker all you need to work on is that you need to prepare beforehand what you are going to talk about.

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In this regard I think it is not out of place to make a mention of Carnegie's six rules where he says—As a public speaker be genuinely interested. If a public speaker is genuinely interested in the subject who will be interested in the audience members one has to smile is not, it? one has to smile the smile has to be very cordial, fine? Because as I have been saying that it does not cost too much you will find here.

Once again there comes a sort of cultural difference Germans smile less and that is why Germans may be considered, fine quite immodest, impolite when it comes to their smile. Now if you know some of the names of the audience members please name them if you do not know their names even then you can address them as Friends, Romans, Countrymen lend me the ears fine.

And then listen as a public speaker one must ensure that he is being listened to and he can be listened to only when he is prepared he is interested. When you are working on the content of it and you know about your audience members, please draft your talk in such a manner that it is interesting to them, it is beneficial to them. If you think of their interest, because as, I have been saying, that every audience members wants to hear what he or she wants to hear.

So, in the very first instance when he knows that the topic is not interesting throughout however hard you try you will fail as a public speaker, my dear friend. And make them feel important. It is only because of them that you are important your significance depends upon the audience members. So, do not belittle them do not insult them with your words, with your remarks with your hurts comments or whatsoever.

Now when you have done all these practices beforehand the gala day has come the delivery day the day when you are going to talk about certain small things that ought to be kept into consideration why don't you go there beforehand. You will often find a person who always says that my train is at 10:10 and I have to be there by 10:10, often misses the train. So, once you have decided you have a train at 10:10 you must go there by 10, my dear friend.

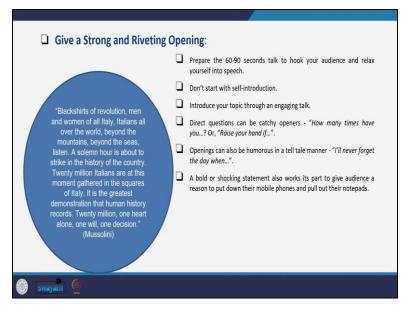
So, it is always better even as a speaker to arrive a few minutes early, because you know it has a benefit and the benefit is that you get yourself acquainted with the audience, you get yourself acquainted with the ambience. You have a feel of the entire situation, the place because sometimes or the other you may have some delays because of the traffic. So, it is always better to arrive well in time and for that you will have to plan beforehand ,you check the ambience, you check the gadgets, and everything.

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First Impression with the Audience: Tips for Delivery Day			
☐ Be on Time:			
	☐ Plan to arrive a few minutes early.		
	☐ Allow room for delays in traffic.		
	☐ Check the ambience and tech connections beforehand.		
☐ Positive and Confident Body Language:			
	☐ Check your Posture		
	☐ Relax your face muscles		
	☐ Wear a smile		
	☐ Make eye contact		
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And then when you start to deliver check your posture. Nowadays nobody loves a speaker who stands static. And who stands on a platform rather the audience members also feel that if the speaker can be at the same level, that is why you might have found many speakers coming down at the level of the audience and they speak. It is always better if you can relax your face muscles and as I have been saying smile and the world belongs to you only a little smile can make you triumphant and please try to make eye contact throughout. Now comes the opening when everything is done. Now you are going to open how should one open what is to the first sentence, fine?

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You have already prepared a lot of content but you are going to win or to lose only in the 60 to 90 seconds, my dear friend. Many people who start giving self-introduction, fine, I mean they know beforehand who you are and they are actually imaging a lot about you many of them might have Google also about you about your achievements and also there is no need giving a long introduction about yourself.

It is always better that you come to the point as early as possible but before you start you actually should greet your audience members. Sometimes one can practice different ways of opening the talk either through asking a question either through starting with a story, with an a with an incident, with an anecdote with a coat. But remember if you are going to put a coat remember the quote thoroughly, isn't it?

Sometimes one starts in a very imperative manner sometimes one starts in a very requesting tone. Raise your hands if you really want to know the answer to the question that I am going to put forth fine. Opening sometimes can be humorous but I will rather advise you not to start your introduction with a humour because many of the audience members may consider your humour to be of a different sort and may not understand and the humour may become a rumour, my dear friend.

So, a bold or shocking statement can often work in this regard let me give you a small find a small clip from Benito Mussolini's talk. I think most of you know about Benito Mussolini fine of Italy, who actually, Italy had fought the world war first on the side of UK and France but when the peace treaty happened, they got only little crumbs and they were very much

dissatisfied and that is why Mussolini wanted to compensate for that through organizing his fascist forces and he also wanted to annex senior is not it.

So, let us take some lines from Mussolini's speech and you see how he coins words because Mussolini was a great orator fine and a great administrator as well. So, what he says—

"Black shirts of revolution men and women of Italy, Italians all over the world beyond the mountains beyond the seas listen. A solemn hour is about to strike in the history of the country. Twenty million Italians are at this moment gathered in the squares of Italy. It is the greatest demonstration that human history records. Twenty millions, one heart alone, one will, one decision."

Look at how beautifully he opens and then he provides, and he supports his own arguments and then towards the end, fine, he actually gives a very beautiful message and people feel that they got a lot of thought in it and they really considered Mussolini to be one of the great orators and leaders who could bring a change to their country.

Now in the previous lecture if you remember I had hinted it out that as a public speaker you have to be culturally sensitive. So, we need not spend too much time on it.

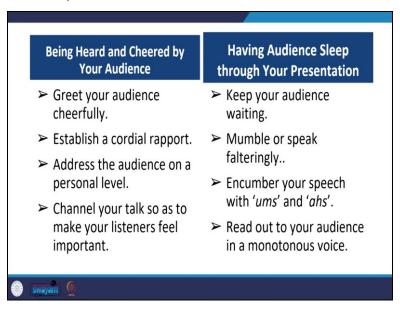
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So, communicate ideas in a language which is sensitive to age, gender, and culture. A public speaker ought to be polite and courteous. When you are putting even your arguments the way Mussolini put, let there be a sort of decorum. You need to encourage participation, is not it how? How can you make your audience members participate? By making your speech more inclusive--- Italians listen, men of Italy, listen. Fine?

You can come across several such speeches where you can find the orator trying to make the audience members participate in the event that s/he is going to do. Tailor your tone, your voice should be as such that it can provide very advantageous for the audience members. Whatever you are going to say as a speaker please ensure that there is authenticity and of course, on the right hand side, you can see the speaker. How he is working on his clothing, on his appearance, on his smile, on his confidence, on his handshake, on the correct body posture. Who are the speakers often heard and often cheered? Those who greet their audience members.

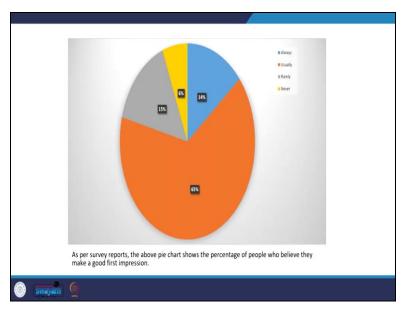
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Those who establish a cordial rapport, those who address the audience on a personal level as I said coming down from the pulpit or the stage and one who channelizes one's thought. So as to make the listeners feel comfortable so, as to make the listeners feel cordial but there are those who actually pull their audience into a sort of sleep. And who are such people--- those who always keep their audience members waiting.

How can one keep their audience members waiting if one is a very slow speaker when the audience members have to fumble forwards, if the pauses are too longer, fine? If there are so, many nasalized pauses and one who simply reads out to the audience members and also in a very monotonous voice because the audience members want to be cheered and as a speaker you want to be heard, my dear friend.

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In this survey you can find that 15% people, 15% rather they rarely think about making their first impression, whereas 65% people they usually think of making their first impression and they might have experimented as well. 14% always think that first impression actually pays, whereas it is only 6% people, only 6% who never think that first impression can work. But my dear friends, you also might have realized through your own experiences how your first impression works or how the first impression of your speaker works.

So, there are certain things to be kept into consideration and in this regard when a speaker keeps the audience members waited, the audience members become quite aware tired in this regard a Franco- English writer poet says:

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"Tell them what you are going to tell them." I mean in the first instance tell them what you

are going to tell them. I mean disclose reveal your topic. Then tell them, then speak, I mean

argue then tell them that you have told them, meaning thereby through these words he

provides the essence of how a powerful speech or talk should begin and end. But as novice

speakers all of us must should not only underline these facts. Rather we should be prepared

and we should keep the following in order to prove ourselves a better speaker and what are

they avoid opening your talk with a humorous story. My dear friends, one writer says that for

audience members and for a public speech nothing is as important as a man. You know when

you are on the stage this writer says when you are on the stage see that nobody is there on the

stage except you.

Because the audience members' attentions are diverted, distracted because in a public

speaking what matters most--- the most important thing is the speaker himself. So, begin your

talk on a very cordial note your audience members should be interested in your talk and they

are not ready to listen to your apologies. Many people who begin with apologies they often

are condemned. So, it is better to ignore the apologies and rather speak in a very cordial way.

One has as a public speaker not only to create curiosity but to continue but to sustain the

audience members interest throughout. One has to open ones talk presentation with a story

anecdote fine I mean there can be quite a good number of such quotations also can come

across heard melodies are sweet those unheard are sweeter. A thing of beauty can be a joy

forever fine. I mean there can be quite a good number of depending upon the occasion and

the purpose you can bring them into your own speech.

Avoid opening your talk too formally fine don't stand there like a statue and do not behave

like a statue. Please so, that you are there and you are interested to talk to them and your talk

is going to be very conversational and at the end of the talk they are going to take something

away as memorable audiences always hear what they expect to hear. So, your audience

members just in the beginning when you disclose or reveal your topic right from the

beginning they either become a part of you or they become apart from you.

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So, as a public speaker, you have to keep all these things into consideration, my dear friend. And before we end once again I will repeat you never get a second chance to make a first impression because first impression is the last impression, first impression lasts. I hope your thirst for public speech does not remain static, it continues it keeps on longing, it keeps on lingering and I will try my level best to deliver my talk and my suggestions. So, that after the course is over you can come out successfully as an effective public speaker.

With this I come to the end of today's talk. Thank you very much have a nice day.