



Advice and Suggestions

- The average attention span for a talk is about 15 minutes. So break your session into three and get them to do something different in the two gaps. You could pair them up to do a little experiment, for example.
- Keep it short and not too detailed
- Talk WAY Slower than what feels natural. Pause between sentences to give them time to digest what you have said.
- Ask them, don't tell them. For example, "What do you think are the most important attributes of an engineer?" (a great chance to debunk those myths...) or "Does anyone know what "x" is?". You are trying to get them to be a part of the talk.
- DO NOT write everything on your slides. Just use a title and a funky image to grab their attention. Maybe one bullet point with five or six words that describe what you're talking about for that section.
- DO NOT use whizzy graphics/weird fonts/animations, unless they are absolutely necessary. They're just distracting and, to be honest, a bit naff.
- DO NOT tell jokes unless you're confident. You might need to feel out your audience too - a small group are going to be more self-conscious. But if you do points 1 and 2 you will soon have them engaged.
- Tell real stories. Tell them about YOU. What did YOU worry about? What did YOU find hard? What did YOU find surprising?
- Lots of photos.
- Make things relatable, use analogies:
 - Your plane flies for 4 hours. That's like breakfast to lunch
 - Compare airplane to size of their classroom, relate to what they can visualize
 - How many car tanks of gas your plane uses in one flight
- Leave time at the end for questions.
- Have some questions ready that you know they will probably want to ask, so you can get the process going. But if you did points 1 and 2, the questions will definitely come.
- At the end of the day, they probably will not remember what you said, but they WILL remember how you made them feel. So get them excited and engaged and believing they can do what you do!
- Get company approval to present in uniform
- Move around as you talk
- Give them information that they can't google.

