

ENGAGING AND INFLUENCING LISTENERS

Communicating Your Message for Maximum Impact











60% CEOS VIEW ORGANIZATION AS EMPATHETIC

1 IN 4 EMPLOYEES

EMPATHY

- Write: complaint, problem or struggle
- Pick a partner. Tell partner what you wrote and what you think you need to do to overcome struggle
- Partner, listen, help them be more specific by asking questions



People don't **care** how much you **know** until they **know** how much you **care**!

Empathy Toolkit

Acknowledge Concern Restate or Summarize Ask Questions Action Steps Listen







DON'T BURY THE LEAD





Question

How long do you have to grab attention? You answer...





Question

How long until they tune out? You answer...





DON'T BURY THE LEAD

- Volunteers
- Identify listener/audience
- Tell us what you do for a living

Lead Toolkit

Hit the headline Fire alarm approach Address concerns First, let's take a step back







Messages are not

- Marketing Statements
- Mission Statements
- We have the greatest employees
- We work closely with our stakeholders

Messages are

- About your listener
- Nothing more important than the safety of our students
- Our goal is to partner with Radnor township so we can have a much stronger relationship that will benefit the entire community



A MESSAGE

STICK

Program at Stanford University

Students presented a one minute speech that contained 3 statistics



remember a single statistic

63% Remember a story



PLAN IN ADVANCE

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE Care about? Solve problem? Sit in their seats







Bridge to Message

In fact

It's important to understand

What you might find interesting

That is a common misperception so let me clarify

First, let me say

Let me also point out

In reality

What we do know is

I'm not going to speculate; what I can tell you

That is not entirely correct, the truth is

You might think that-in my experience



CREATE MESSAGE TRIANGLE

- Small groups
- Identify listener
- Create message points
- Prepare for interview/bridge messages

Sample Scenarios

SCENARIO ONE

The new Center for the Performing Arts just opened with a lot of fanfare. Unfortunately, the new building has not been well-received by our students, faculty and staff who have complained that it isn't large enough, there aren't enough spaces for practicing, etc. You need to create a compelling case for why this is the right building for Villanova—and a great addition to our campus.

SCENARIO TWO

There has been pushback from our alumni on the University's new Strategic Plan, with feedback that the plan will change Villanova too much and will not be the place it once was. You need to help them understand how the new Strategic Plan embraces Villanova's core values, but also pushes the University forward.

SCENARIO THREE

After a recent visit to campus by a well-known speaker, there has been a backlash from faculty that Villanova is much too liberal an institution that doesn't host more (conservative) points of view. What do you do to convince the faculty in a clear and concise way that there is no liberal bias at the University?

Messaging Toolkit

What's the story Know your audience Triangle approach Bridge to message F-E-A-S-T





WHAT TO SAY

DON'T KNOW



I understand your concern about grade point average and it's important. I think the bigger issue is...



Stick to what you know

That's not my area of expertise. What I do know is this



I'm going to need to look into this

UNCLEAR COMMENTS



Ask person to give example or share data/facts



Re-state points to verify what the person is saying

CONFRONTATION





What I'm saying is Research suggests These are the facts

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Turn the question back to attacker:

What I hear you saying is You are certainly entitled to your perspective

Executive Presence

Managers often say to me,

he/she is good at what they do but they lack executive presence

268 executives pinpointed 3 essential elements of executive presence





Make Me Care Meter

FOCUS

Focus your message

Opportunity

Clear. Concise. Consistent

Understand your audience

Simple



