

TOASTMASTERS
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The Successful Club Series

Moments of Truth

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Toastmasters International

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The Successful Club Series

Toastmasters International's *The Successful Club Series* is a set of presentations addressing the subject of quality club meetings. Members will learn about the skills and standards they must strive to achieve for their club to be successful.

Most presentations in *The Successful Club Series* may be offered by any club member and require 10 to 15 minutes to present.

Conducting the Program

"Moments of Truth" discusses the standards necessary to create positive impressions about club service and provides a club evaluation exercise. This product consists of four parts:

- ▶ Definition and explanation of the presentation
- ▶ Guidelines for your introduction to the audience
- ▶ Outline for the development of your speech
- ▶ CD of a PowerPoint presentation to be viewed along with your speech

"Moments of Truth" provides an overview of many subjects so the presentation time is approximately one hour. The presentation may be divided into segments to accommodate club meeting schedules.

In Your Own Words

The outline is not a script and should not be read word-for-word. Instead, use the document as a guide for presenting the material in your own words and with your own narrative style. The outline is a structure on which to build your presentation. Use the points of the outline to develop your speech, but be the author of your own oration.

Here are some tips on using this outline to develop and deliver your presentation:

- ▶ Study the outline in this manual carefully. Familiarize yourself with the general structure. Preparation is the key to a successful presentation.
- ▶ Use the outline to build your own speech using your own words. Prepare a set of notes indicating where you wish to pause, gesture, or add special verbal emphasis. Highlight key words or sentences to help you present the material most effectively.
- ▶ When delivering your speech, be expressive. Use all of the presentation skills you have learned as a Toastmaster, including vocal variety and gestures.

Using Visual Aids Effectively

Visual aids add interest to any presentation and help your audience retain information. You are encouraged to use them. If you plan to use the PowerPoint slides for this presentation as visual aids, you will need a data projector, a laptop computer, a table to support them, and a screen for viewing. In the outline, there are indications for placement of the PowerPoint slides. Each is numbered. For example, V #1 refers to the first visual.

Please note that the first slide in the PowerPoint show is a title slide and is not included in this numbering system.

If you cannot arrange for projection equipment but still would like to use visuals, you may copy the material on the visuals onto a flipchart. Do this before the presentation. Use a heavy marking pen that does not seep through the paper, and write on every third or fourth page so succeeding visuals will not show through. Also, make your letters large and heavy with plenty of space between them.

Follow these tips when using visual aids:

- ▶ Set them up and test them before the meeting begins. Place them so they are easily visible to listeners. Place your projector so it projects a large, high, undistorted image on the screen. Focus the image.
- ▶ Bring spare equipment, including a projector bulb, extension cord, extra marking pens, etc.
- ▶ Display your visuals only when they are needed. If you are using a flipchart, flip the page back out of view when you are finished with it.
- ▶ Remember not to stand between the screen or flipchart and your audience or you will block their view.
- ▶ Maintain eye contact with your listeners. Do not talk to the screen or flipchart. If you must turn your back to point out something, pause as you point it out, and then resume speaking only after you are once again facing your audience.

Evaluation and Advanced Awards

Because this is an outlined presentation, for presenting it you will not receive credit toward completing a manual speech project, but you may receive credit toward your Advanced Leader Bronze (ALB) or Advanced Communicator Silver (ACS) award. Ask your vice president education to assign an evaluator for your presentation.

Conducting any two presentations from *The Successful Club Series* and/or *The Leadership Excellence Series* is one component of qualification for ALB recognition. Conducting any two presentations from *The Better Speaker Series* and/or *The Successful Club Series* is one component of qualification for ACS recognition. For further details, please view the Toastmasters International Web site: [toastmasters.org/membereducation](https://www.toastmasters.org/membereducation).

Moments of Truth

Introducing the Presenter

Tips for the Presenter: Writing Your Introduction

All prepared speeches in Toastmasters require an introduction. A proper introduction of you and your speech is important to the success of your presentation. Use the following as a guide in writing your introduction:

- ▶ Include the purpose of *The Successful Club Series*.
- ▶ Explain why “Moments of Truth” is important for a Toastmasters club, stating the purpose and one or more objectives of your presentation.
- ▶ Incorporate some background about yourself.
- ▶ Read *When You’re the Introducer* (Item 1167E) for further details on giving a proper introduction.
- ▶ Give your finished introduction to the person who will be introducing you.

Tips for the Introducer

- ▶ Ask the presenter any clarifying questions.
- ▶ Rehearse the introduction.

Moments of Truth

Outline

A club's most important goals are member service and personal satisfaction. In order to keep members active and recruit new members, clubs must provide courteous, attentive, and capable service to every member and guest.

Moment of Truth

V #1

When anyone comes in contact with any aspect of Toastmasters, the person forms an impression based on his or her experience at that particular time. Clubs must remain cognizant of these crucial, decisive times and ensure that every experience with Toastmasters is a positive one.

There are six critical moments of truth in which clubs have an opportunity to create positive impressions. The six critical Toastmasters moments of truth are:

V #2

- ▶ First Impressions
- ▶ Membership Orientation
- ▶ Fellowship, Variety and Communication
- ▶ Program Planning and Meeting Organization
- ▶ Membership Strength
- ▶ Achievement Recognition

Use the following standards for each moment of truth to offer quality service for each contact point.

1. First Impressions

V #3

- Greet each guest at the door. Introduce the guest to officers and members.
- Give each guest a name tag. Ask the guest to fill out an information form.
- Set up a professional-looking meeting room.
- Ensure the meeting location is conveniently located, accessible, and the meeting room is clearly marked.

- Encourage guests to participate in the meeting and to comment on their experience at the end.
- Invite guests to join the club on the day they visit.

2. **Membership Orientation**

V #4

- Induct new members formally and provide a membership pin and manuals.
- Assign a mentor for one-on-one assistance.
- Discuss how the educational program helps develop speaking and leadership skills.
- Survey all new members' learning needs.
- Assign a speaking role for the new member as soon as possible.
- Continue to make new members feel welcome and encourage their participation in meetings.

3. **Fellowship, Variety, and Communication**

V #5

- Members greet guests and make them feel welcome.
- The vice president education (VPE) regularly plans enjoyable, dynamic educational programs with exciting, thought-provoking themes.
- The club enjoys regularly-scheduled social events.
- Encourage club members to participate in area, district, and international events.
- Promote and encourage inter-club events.
- Issue a club newsletter regularly and maintain a Web site.

4. **Program Planning and Meeting Organization**

V #6

- Publicize the program and agenda in advance.
- Ensure all members know their responsibilities for each meeting and are prepared to carry out all assignments.
- Begin and end meetings on time.
- Feature creative Table Topics™ and exciting theme meetings.
- Base positive, helpful evaluations upon project objectives and speakers' learning goals.

5. **Membership Strength**

V #7

- Maintain a minimum of 20 or more members.
- Work to retain members.
- Actively promote your club in the community or within the sponsoring organization.

- Continually plan varied and exciting club meetings.
- Recognize Toastmasters who sponsor new members.
- Participate regularly in membership-building programs.

6. **Achievement Recognition**

V #8

- Send award applications to World Headquarters or apply for awards online immediately when members complete educational requirements.
- Maintain and post member progress charts at every meeting.
- Formally recognize member achievements.
- Recognize club, district, and international leaders.
- Publicize member and club achievements.
- Use the Distinguished Club Program (DCP) for planning and recognition.

Moments of Truth Evaluation

V #9

Does Your Club Meet Standards?

Presenter: *Using the handout provided, work with the club to perform a self evaluation against the six standards of each moment of truth.*

1. *Divide the audience into six equal groups.*
2. *Assign a moment of truth to each group. If there are fewer than 20 people in the audience, you may have fewer than six groups but it may be necessary to assign more than one moment of truth to a group.*
3. *Distribute one handout to each group.*
4. *Give each group the following assignment and allow 5-10 minutes for discussion within groups, making an announcement when there is one minute left.*
 - *Determine how many of the six standards the club meets.*
 - *Discuss how the club handles each of the quality standards belonging to the assigned moment of truth. How can it improve?*
5. *On the Moments of Truth chart, record the number of achieved standards. Use a flipchart to record the recommendations. Provide the following guide statements to help start the groups' discussions if needed:*
 - **First Impressions:** *Discuss what guests first experience and observe when visiting a club and whether or not these impressions encourage them to return.*
 - **New Member Orientation:** *Consider to what degree the club acquaints new members with the Toastmasters education and recognition system, their responsibility to the club, and the club's responsibility to the member.*
 - **Program Planning and Meeting Organization:** *Judge whether or not club meetings are carefully planned, with well-prepared speakers and useful evaluations.*
 - **Fellowship and Variety:** *Verify if the club offers a warm, friendly, and supportive environment that encourages enjoyable learning.*

- **Charter Strength:** Discuss whether the club's number of members is not only sufficient to provide leadership, but also to fill meeting and committee assignments. Be sure to evaluate the club's membership-building and retention practices.
- **Recognition:** Evaluate the club's performance regarding the tracking of each member's educational progress, immediate submission of completed applications, and consistent recognition of achievements.

6. Ask that each group select a spokesperson to write the group's ideas and report to the entire audience. Reports should include:

- Which of the six standards does the club currently meet?
- What recommendations does the group have for improvement or change?

Conclusion

V #10

Conduct a "Moments of Truth" evaluation at least once per year to ensure the club is taking advantage of every opportunity to make a good impression when an individual comes in contact with any aspect of Toastmasters. Remember the old maxim; you never get a second chance to make a first impression.

Evaluation Guide

Evaluator's Name _____

Presentation Title _____ Date _____

How effective was the speaker's introduction in helping the audience understand the purpose of *The Successful Club Series* and the presentation itself?

Was the presenter adequately prepared? How heavily did the presenter rely on notes?

How did the speaker use vocal variety to enhance this presentation?

What other techniques did the speaker use to personalize and augment the presentation? Were they effective? How?

Did the speaker display the visuals smoothly and at the appropriate times? How could the speaker improve?

What aspect of the speaker's presentation style did you find unique? Why?

Did the speaker present the material clearly and simply so audience members could easily use the information to improve their own skills?

What could the speaker have done differently to make the presentation more effective?

What did you like about the presentation?





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