

FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE EVERYTHING



OPENING STRONG

Opening Strong

THE BEST TECHNIQUES FOR OPENING WITH CONFIDENCE & LAUGHTER

Presentations and stand-up acts are forms of communication. They are conversations. They are stories. In order to communicate effectively the audience has to want to listen.



Course in 3 Parts



Understanding

Definition of Opening Strong

Why it's important

6 Types of Tried & True Openings

The Elements Present in the Opening Minutes

Examples

I'll show you a few comedians and their openings and discuss what elements they used to open strong

Write 2 Different Openings

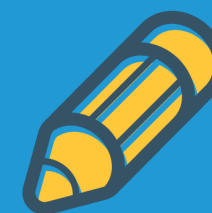
Based on the information learned, you will write 2-3 Openings or Opening Ideas to your stand-up act or presentation

5 Elements of Story

YOUR ACT IS A STORY



character



theme



setting



plot



conflict



Who are you? The Audience Needs to...

Get to Know
You

Trust You

Have
Confidence

Root for You to
Win

Secret:

Mapping out a set is like telling a story. If the audience doesn't trust you, have confidence in you or like you, they have no reason to root for you. If they don't root for you, they don't laugh.

6 Tried & True Types of Openings

The Prank

When you do something unpredictable (usually in an act-out that playfully tricks the audience letting them know that you don't take yourself too seriously

the Engagement

- When your opening lines inform the audience about you or your situation, sets up your theme, encourages applause.

The Anti-Comedian

This technique is designed to make the audience think you're just there to inform so the jokes come as a surprise. You play against the comedy.
Trevor Noah

Fish Out of Water

When your opening sets up your dilemma of being out of your element. "I'm not from here..."

Self-Deprecation

You start by making fun of yourself.

Daniel Tosh Opens like this
Lisa Parisi Example

The Competition

Letting them know that they are superior... because they might think that you think you are superior (small town)

Elements Present in the Best Opening Minute

Thank the
Audience
Appreciation

Superiority
Make the audience feel
superior

Set Up your
Dilemma
Obstacles

Act-out
Performance Piece

Stay Playful
Audience is in whatever
state the performer is in.

Be Candid and
present
Authenticity

Be Relatable

Irony

Mistakes to Avoid

THAT COULD KILL THE SHOW



Stop Yelling

Confusing
volume with
excitement

Insulting the House

Don't insult the
place you're
working in

Insulting the Audience

"F*ck you
guys," As a
defense
mechanism

Golden Rule

He who has the
gold makes the
rules

Let's Look at Some Comedians

