Philosophy

Guide to presenters

When we are presenting a subject in Philosophy we are conducting a learning exercise, to learn for oneself and to facilitate learning in others.

Everyone learns in different ways, and we should consider these ways in our presentations and perhaps offer as many of these methods as is sensible.

People learn by.

Watching, listening, talking, doing, writing.

In Philosophy the most valuable time is spent in **discussion, asking questions, sharing knowledge and opinions**.

The **discussion is not a debate** about which is right or wrong and it is not a forum for pushing one's own beliefs. No one should be trying to persuade or influence the group but simply sharing what they know and believe to be true.

The outcome of discussion therefore is not a target.

Preparation

1) **Compile the subject content** that you are interested in using as many different sources as possible, Google will find most of these.

2) **Write a first draft** to get you own ideas in place.

3) **Consider what it is you want your group to know** and list that down.

In professional teaching/training these are known as learning outcomes and describe what the person will be able to do after the talk.

In our situation we are aiming for **understanding.** We know if someone understands if they can do some of the following ;

Describe what is meant by ...

Identify a premise.

Express an opinion.

These are verbs that indicate that the learner has taken in the information and can relate it back verbally. We are not going to test understanding, but if we know what we are aiming for, what we say will more directed.

4) **Review the first draft** and check that your explanation is clear and that it targets those things you want the group to know, and that all things being equal, the average person would be able to understand.

We are not aiming to be professional speakers so writing down exactly what you want to say and reading this out at the group is by far the best and most effective technique to use.

a) **Look for places when you can stop talking** and allow the group to speak, this is usually straight after an explanation of an argument or point of view.

b) **Consider asking a question** about that point to stimulate discussion.

E.G

To what degree do you think this argument is valid?

What would a counter argument be to this?

The group coordinator will facilitate the discussion and will suggest when to move on.

5**) Write an overview** of what you will be covering send to the coordinator who will send to all to introduce the subject so that members can do some pre reading if they wish.

6)**Write an introduction** to your piece which briefly describes what you will be covering

7) **Read the whole piece out loud** and see what the times look like.

Aim for a maximum of 20 mins speaking before stopping , but less speaking and more discussion is always better.

If you want to practise remember that normal speaking speed is too fast , speak so it sounds really slow to you . It will be the right speed for your listeners.

ON THE DAY

Take your time, follow your notes,

Don't underestimate people desire to discuss. allow this to happen.

Don't try to get everything in if discussions take longer, you can always send out the bits you did not cover later.

Don't try to answer every question, you don't have to be an expert if you don't know say so or throw it out to the group for an answer.

No one expects you to be perfect.

AFTER THE DAY

Send all your notes to Philosophy@mku3a.org so that they can be sent out to all members as a follow up.