



Tips on Training from an Expert

The goal is not to be the best instructor but a better instructor in the coming months.

Communication:

1. Can I be a better communicator?
 - a. Recognize that you may not be communicating fundamental concepts as well as you think. Ask open ended questions.
 - b. Acknowledge verbal skills (or lack thereof)—instead of asking one person, ask several people to discuss and address questions as a group. This works best in explaining concepts.
2. Have the courage to allow yourself to be filmed—and then watch your presentation.
 - a. Look for voice modulations, such as drop-offs at the end of a sentence, distracting mannerisms, eye contact, energy levels, passionate discourse, etc.
 - b. Use of dynamic words—since words sometimes convey emotions—engages and challenges the mind. Do not be afraid of dynamic discourse. Know your audience.
3. Be truthful: Are you just entertaining the attendees or are you sharing important safety information that will translate into safe field practices?

Presentation:

1. Many use PowerPoint presentations...nothing wrong with that! But also consider:
 - a. Changing your pictures periodically. Be on the lookout for better pictures than those you are using, paying particular attention to making sure that everything in the photo is compliant and safe (e.g. proper ladder and position, etc.).
 - b. Preparing to deliver the presentation—verbally or with props such as a chalkboard or easel, etc. Can you present a credible training session using your voice with limited support materials?
2. Reorganize your material. Changing up the order of your material helps you – and anyone who may have attended your presentation previously – stay focused and provides fresh energy.
3. Critique your training introduction and closing comments. Both are great opportunities to engage with attendees and ask them for a commitment to improve safety. What will they do differently tomorrow?

Knowledge:

1. Do you know your material? Do you understand it? Is there room to grow in your understanding of the standard? If the answer is yes, there is hope for you and your students! What are you doing to improve your knowledge or do you think you already have it down? NAXSA and LinkedIn offer quick, ongoing learning opportunities.
2. Interact frequently with other instructors to discover their unique styles, as well as the way in which they answer frequently asked questions.