



HOW TO QUICKLY IMPROVE YOUR STORYTELLING SKILLS

In his classic book *Think and Grow Rich*, Napoleon Hill introduced the concept of the Mastermind group. This is a group of like-minded individuals who help one another achieve various goals.

This concept has been used by many successful people, and underscores the power of group thinking. A peer speaking or storytelling group can be helpful, too.

How?

Just like a Mastermind.

You can share, evaluate, and encourage group members to greater heights. In short, your peers can help you steer clear of mistakes and problems.

Where can you find prospective members of this kind of group?

Other people who have to present before an audience, work associates, and Toastmasters would be excellent places to start looking. Let these people know what you're trying to create. Explain not only what members can get, but what they will be expected to give to the group.

This creates a foundation of expectations of all members, and increase the odds of the survival of the group. It's a good idea to start small - five people at most. This provides an opportunity for prospective members to express their expectations from the group, and what they can give.

It also allows you to find a mutually convenient meeting time, which isn't easy to do. There are seven keys to making a peer speaking group work for all members:

One. **Participants must be willing to give as well as get.** Far too many groups fail because some members are just there to get, and don't provide the same amount of help to other members. If you give time and undivided attention to others, the group will grow stronger, and you'll get back more than you give.

Two. **Be honest.** Let's face it, no one really likes to hear that their story needs improvement, or just isn't working. If they truly want to improve, they'll listen. If another member's story is confusing, or doesn't connect with you, say so. Be respectful, and be prepared to offer alternative ideas. Honesty is important. If you struggle with this concept, ask yourself one question before you offer feedback to someone else: "Would I benefit and improve if someone gave me this type of advice?"

Three. **Have thick skin.** As mentioned in the last key, receiving feedback isn't always fun. It's not meant to be. If you want to improve, constructive evaluation is necessary. Before committing to this type of group, really think about this question: "Am I doing this for education, or validation?" If it's the latter, don't bother joining. Education leads to expansion; validation leads to stagnation.

Four. **Respect other peoples time.** As obvious as this may seem, it is violated far too often. If one member consistently takes up most of the meeting time, it will cause frustration, and eventually, it will fracture the group. Set a time limit for each person to speak and be evaluated. You can always make exceptions if someone needs special attention.

Five. **Record yourself.** Providing the group with a recorded version of your story can help them assist you even more. Being able to hear audience reactions, the effectiveness of pauses, and how you perform 'live' will provide more insight into your style and effectiveness.

Six. **Write out your story.** Giving the group a written copy of your presentation can help them offer suggestions about sentence structure, word usage, and overall flow of the story. Remember that some words and phrases may look good on paper, but don't sound good to the ear. Writing your story does take time, but it's well worth that time because it offers another level of evaluation.

Seven. **Crave feedback.** This is the most important characteristic to bring to your group. If you truly seek improvement, and are willing to help others, you will grow faster than you can imagine. The most successful people tend to be voracious students, they can never get enough knowledge, or improve fast enough. Adopt this attitude and you, too, can rise above the pack.

In a fast-changing world, it's easy to get caught up in fads and trends. However, principles of success work no matter what the latest trends are. The concept of the Mastermind — or peer group — has existed for decades, if not centuries. Follow the rules laid out above. Find like-minded people and commit to a group. You'll find that the power of many minds can lift you to much greater heights.

ACTION STEP: Take your first steps to create a peer group of presenters and storytellers. Reach out to like-minded people. Share the seven steps in this lesson to create a foundation for your mastermind.

FEATURED RESOURCE

The Ultimate Hack For Engaging Presentations *Like Having A 24/7 Speech Coach In Your Back Pocket*

Imagine standing before a boardroom, team members and peers, or prospective clients, ready to deliver a presentation with **confidence and clarity**. Your words **resonate**, your ideas **captivate**, and your listeners are **fully engaged**.

If you can master public speaking, then you **unlock the full potential** of your leadership. Enhanced communication leads to **better decision-making, stronger team alignment**, and more **impactful leadership**.

But many people struggle with public speaking. Nervousness creeps in, filler words disrupt the flow, and the message loses its impact. If you don't address these issues, then your ability to influence and inspire will diminish, your team's performance may suffer, and your leadership effectiveness will be compromised.

So, take advantage of our unique offering that combines the power of Yoodli, the AI-powered speech coach, with personalized coaching sessions. Here's how we can help you transform your presentations:

- **Personalized Speech Analysis**
- **Custom Challenges And Practical Exercises**
- **One-on-One Coaching**
- **Goal Setting And Development Plans**

By leveraging Yoodli and personalized coaching, you'll enhance your **public speaking skills** and strengthen your leadership **presence and influence**. Improved communication leads to **better team collaboration, increased confidence** in your leadership, and a greater ability to **inspire and motivate** your peers.

If you're ready to elevate your presentation skills, check out this valuable presentation coaching tool, and transform your speech into your most powerful communication asset!

Take the first step towards becoming a more compelling and effective speaker with a brief online review. Schedule time with me here: <https://calendly.com/speakingcpr/30-minute-call>

RAVING FANS

*"Michael's coaching sessions were amazing! I **learned more about storytelling in six weeks** than I have in my last 16 years as a speaker. Michael gave me the skills and confidence to speak to an audience of over 3,000 people."*

~ Michael Pope
Certified Maxwell Trainer and Speaker

*"Your presentation on TED talks was the **very best I have heard** on the subject. Congratulations on a **content-rich, superbly-presented** program."*

~ Patricia Fripp
NSA Speaker Hall of Fame, Executive Speech Coach

*"Thank you for your presentation. It had an outstanding turnout. I received an **unprecedented amount of extremely positive feedback** on both the program content and the way you presented it."*

*Through your efforts our members have gained important knowledge and **expanded their project management skill sets**; which ultimately serves to **improve project management** at AT&T".*

~ Terri C. Kidd, ATT

*"Michael Davis was **one of the best coaches** I ever worked with. I would recommend Michael, as a story and speaking coach to **anyone with a high stakes talk to give**. Michael will help you take your speech from **good to great!**"*

~ LTC (Ret.) Scott Mann
Green Beret, TEDx Speaker, Author, Speaker, Trainer

*"Michael session helps you gain clarity on your presentation and your entire message. His points are **valuable, easy to understand and quick to implement**. Watching his session was a **master class on how to give a presentation**."*

~ Jody, Ohio Real Estate Investors Association