

Intentional Instructional Moves

Strategic Steps to
Accelerate Student
Learning

Companion Guide

Chapter 16: Intentional Step Two



Chapter 16

Intentional Step Two: Model Presentation Skills

After teachers have offered direct instruction, they should model how students can apply those skills as they're presenting. What does an effective presentation look and sound like? How can a speaker use gestures effectively? How can PowerPoint actually enhance a presentation rather than make the audience groan?

Strategy 1: Share Examples

One way to model powerful presentations is by sharing examples. I've seen teachers record themselves giving a talk and then share that recording with their students. At various points throughout the recording, the teacher will pause and have students provide feedback on a specific aspect of the presentation. For instance, what do they notice about the speaker's hand gestures? What's working in their use of gestures and what could be improved? Guest speakers can also work well for this exercise.

Additionally, teachers can share examples of good and bad presentations, using platforms like YouTube and TED Talks. TED especially has a plethora of excellent speakers, ranging from professionals who feel at home on the stage, to everyday people who are experts in their subject. The more examples they encounter, the more students will begin to notice commonalities among effective presentations. They will probably also pick up on the fact that good presenters are authentic and allow their personalities to shine through (Classrooms Team, 2021). When discussing these examples, invite students to focus on a new element or skill, such as tone. *What did you notice about the speaker's tone and how might it be improved?*

Modeling specific presentation skills allows students to learn, practice, and develop these

skills with support. This strategy also tends to generate more focused conversation and intentional concentration on specific skills. Hattie confirms that classroom discussion (.82) is a highly effective teaching strategy. Furthermore, modeling helps students learn to identify and manage their emotions, practice self-discipline, listen actively, understand and empathize with others, and exercise quality control.