

## HOW TO WRITE THE PRESENTATION

The DIALOGUE QUESTIONS listed in each talk are for written reflection and dialogue by the presenting couple. Allow enough time to do a thorough job. Once this is done the OUTLINE FOR PRESENTATION will serve as a guideline for putting the feelings and thoughts expressed in answering the questions into an honest and open presentation. Twenty minutes is a good time length to work toward.

Make sure there are feeling words and concrete examples in the talk. If there is something you simply can't share at this time, work with the other questions or something that might occur to you because of the topic. These are only guidelines meant to help you look at your vivencia. Use personal pronouns, I, we, etc., and avoid lecturing or teaching. Again, it is the personal experience of what you learned or perceived that is valid in this type of talk.

We, the Image Training Team for Milwaukee Marriage Encounter, will go on record as saying the greatest personal growth takes place when we take on a topic that is somewhat "touchy". We promise growth in confidence and in other areas of your married life as you become a presenting couple.

HDIF - How do I feel?

HDIFAT - How do I feel about that?

HDTMMF - How does that make me feel?

A LOOK AT IMAGE

PURPOSE: To evaluate our Image Group in relationship to the goals and the original purpose of Image.

To examine our expectations of Image as it affects our relationship.

To stimulate a sincere sharing of feelings about our Image Group in order to make it more vital to all involved.

DIALOGUE QUESTIONS BEFORE WRITING PRESENTATION:

Before preparing your presentation, answer the following questions in writing and then dialogue on them.

1. What is the purpose of Image?
2. Do I think our Image Group is too social or too structured?
3. Is our Image Group able to stay on the topic or do we drift off? If we drift off, can we come back to the topic?
4. Do we allow the presenting couple to lead the meeting?
5. Is everyone given an opportunity to share their feelings or do some people dominate? HDTMMF?
6. HDIF when someone interrupts my sharing?
7. HDIF when everyone at the meeting has shared openly?
8. HDIF when our Image meeting does not start on time or has no definite ending point?
9. Is our Image meeting started with a prayer? HDTMMF?
10. How seriously do we take our commitment to Image?
11. Is our group a smoking or nonsmoking group? HDIFAT?
12. Is our group too large or too small? If so, are we willing to split or accept new members?
13. Has our group been together too long? Would we

- be willing to disband and join other groups?
14. What priority do I put on attendance for Image?
  15. Do we really share our feelings or do we quote from books or people?
  16. Do we have a regular schedule for our Image meetings or do we have a flexible meeting (never the same day or time from month to month) schedule? HDTMMF?
  17. Are our refreshments too much? Too Little? Is too much alcohol served?

TELEPHONE QUESTION FOR COUPLES:

Ask them to dialogue on question number ten.

OUTLINE FOR PRESENTATION:

Suggested time for your presentation is twenty minutes.

I Introduction

- A. We suggest that you use the following mood-setter in order to focus the group's feelings on their original weekend and why they decided to join Image. Maybe you've heard it before, but please try and concentrate on your feelings.

Ask the group to relax. Instruct them to sit comfortably, feet flat on the floor, and close their eyes. Suggest that they clear their minds of any preoccupations with home or work. Tell them to just listen as you take them back in their memory to their original Marriage Encounter Weekend. SLOWLY and quietly ask the following questions, PAUSING slightly after each one to allow everyone time to reflect.

How did you feel when you first decided to go on a Marriage Encounter Weekend? Were you excited? ...Hopeful?...Turned off?...Anxious?...Desperate? Think about Friday night while driving to the encounter. Picture yourself in your Car...On the way...Arriving and signing in...Being led to your room. What were your feelings? Concentrate on the Friday night introductory session...Sitting in the conference room surrounded by all those other couples. Were you skeptical?...Afraid?...Encouraged?...Relaxed? Now slowly go through the weekend in your memory. How did you feel as you

listened to the first talk, Encounter With Self? What was your reaction when you were asked to do your own self-encounter? Did you feel stubborn? ...Lost?...Put upon?...Discouraged?...Encouraged? ...Enthusiastic? Think about the times when you wrote and the first time you exchanged your notebooks. Did you sense any risk?...Were you comfortable or uncomfortable as you shared for the first time? As the weekend progressed, what happened to you as an individual?...As a couple? Can you single out any particular moment or point in time when you began to glimpse at what this experience might mean for you? Was there a high point?...An understanding?...Perhaps just a mellowing? Was something happening to you as a couple as you shared again and again? Now think about the closing liturgy. How did you feel as you exchanged wedding vows? How did you feel as you looked around the room and witnessed some tears?...As you witnessed the physical closeness of some of the couples? What were your emotions saying to you? Now think back to the weeks following the weekend. What happened that motivated you to want to continue?...To hold onto your experience? What was it that led you to an Image Group? What were your expectations?...Your needs? ...Your hopes?...

Ask them to open their eyes and come back to the present.

- B. State the purpose of the talk as given above.

## II Body

- A. Briefly describe your expectations of Image prior to joining your Image Group.
- B. Thinking back to your PR and CD on the dialogue questions, many feelings may have emerged. Each of you share on the following:
  - 1. One area of your Image Group that you feel very positive about.
  - 2. One area of your Image Group that you would like to see changed.
- C. Describe your view of commitment to Image.
  - 1. Do other commitments have a higher priority than Image?

2. When a conflict occurs and I must choose, what is my choice? HDTMMF?

### III Conclusion

Close with a positive statement about your Image Group.

#### SHARING QUESTION FOR THE MEETING (BEFORE PRESENTATION):

Why did I join an Image Group?

#### DIALOGUE QUESTIONS FOR THE MEETING (AFTER PRESENTATION):

HDIF about our Image Group? Has it had a positive or negative effect on the growth of our marriage?

What talks or topics do we need to/want to see discussed at Image in the upcoming year?