

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?

I LOVE YOU WHEN I CAN FIND YOU

PURPOSE: To establish priorities for our coupleness and making time for each other.

DIALOGUE QUESTIONS BEFORE PRESENTATION:

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

1. How would I like to spend my time with you?
2. When would I like to spend my time with you?
3. HDIF when you seem to have time for everyone or everything but me?
4. How much time do we spend together in a week?
Do we put our time together to good use?
5. Does my job interfere with the time I have to spend with you? With the children?
6. Do I feel lonely at times when I am in the same room as you? How do I try to overcome this emptiness?
7. How do outside activities interfere with our ability to spend time with each other? How do we or can we balance these activities and our need to spend time together?
8. Do we discuss feelings when we are together or are they pushed aside for the trivial or less confrontive types of conversations?
9. Do our children interfere with our ability to spend time together? How can we better balance these two important needs?
10. Time, extra time, no time! How do we put time to good use to improve our coupleness?
11. HDIF about the time I spend away from you (at work or at play)?

TELEPHONE QUESTION FOR COUPLES:

Ask them to dialogue on question number four.

OUTLINE FOR PRESENTATION:

Suggested time for your presentation is twenty minutes.

I Introduction

State the purpose of the talk as listed above.

II Body

- A. In what ways do I make it difficult for us to spend time on our coupleness? What are some of the things I can do to improve the situation?
- B. What are some of the factors that are beyond my/our control that interfere with our getting to spend time with each other?
- C. Are there times when I avoid spending time with you? When and why does this occur?
- D. Do we have a plan for spending quality time together? If so, what goes wrong or what can we do to improve that time? If not, why not? When will we implement a plan?

III Conclusion

How has writing this talk helped me to catch up to my spouse and our marital relationship?

SHARING QUESTION FOR THE MEETING (BEFORE PRESENTATION):

What would be the best time to spend with my spouse?

DIALOGUE QUESTION FOR THE MEETING (AFTER PRESENTATION):

HDIF about the time we spend together?

REFLECTION:

"Love demands that I learn how to focus my attention on the needs of those I love." John Powell, S.J.