

*Basics of the ARS: Some Tips and
Techniques for Using the ARS as an
Effective Teaching Tool*

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ARS Tips & Techniques



What we have learned...

...so far!

ARS Tips & Techniques

1. Structure of ARS Presentation
2. Question & Answer Design
3. Working with Presenters
4. ARS Technician

Structure of ARS Presentation

1. Equipment Set-Up
2. Powerpoint vs ARS
3. ARS Presentation Design

Equipment Set-Up

1. 2 screens at front of room
2. 2 laptops and 2 LCD projectors
3. ARS set-up so tech and speaker can see both screens
4. Check equipment to make sure it works

Structure of ARS Presentation

1. Equipment Set-Up
2. Powerpoint vs ARS
3. ARS Presentation Design

Powerpoint vs ARS

1. Q & A on ARS screen only
2. Case Material on PP screen only

Structure of ARS Presentation

1. Equipment Set-Up
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ARS Presentation Design

1. 3-4 warm-up questions
 - Demographic
 - Humorous

ARS Presentation Design (cont.)

2. Timer

- 15 – 20 seconds
- start controlled by ARS tech
- start after presenter reads question

ARS Presentation Design (cont.)

3. Displaying results

- Have presenter give correct answers to ARS tech ahead of time so they can be indicated on results
- With small groups – present results as %
With large groups – present results as % or #

ARS Presentation Design (cont.)

4. Have on-the-fly answer choices prepared in advance
 - Yes/No
 - Agree/Disagree (5 point)
 - Excellent/Poor (5 point)
 - Effective/Ineffective (5 point)
 - Much/Less (5 point)
 - #1 - 10

ARS Presentation Design (cont.)

5. Evaluations

- Works well in small doses (end of 1 hr session)
- Works well with take-charge program director
- Poor results with doing entire evaluation at end of day-long course
- Do not display evaluation results

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Question & Answer Design

1. KISS
(Keep It Short & Simple)
2. Characteristics of Good Questions & Answers
3. Answer Set-Up in ARS

Keep It Short & Simple

1. Short Question stem
2. Short Answers
3. Use **BIG FONTS** (24 pt minimum)

Question & Answer Design

1. **KISS**
(Keep It Short & Simple)
2. **Characteristics of Good Questions & Answers**
3. **Answer Set-Up in ARS**

Characteristics of Good Q & A

1. The best questions often don't have a right or wrong answer.
2. Questions with multiple legitimate answer choices are best.

Characteristics of Good Q & A

(cont.)

3. Simple questions are best.
4. In general, questions should be brief so they can be grasped quickly. Questions should be limited to 1-2 sentences

Characteristics of Good Q & A

(cont.)

5. A few questions effectively discussed are better than a lot that are glossed over.
6. Don't ask a question and then ignore the results.

Characteristics of Good Q & A

(cont.)

7. Questions and answers should be worth the audiences time and attention.
8. Questions should be intriguing and engaging.

Question & Answer Design

1. **KISS**
(Keep It Short & Simple)
2. **Characteristics of Good Questions & Answers**
3. **Answer Set-Up in ARS**

Answer Set-Up in ARS

1. Number all answers
2. Maximum of 5 short answers
3. Participants can only choose one answer
4. If doing a series of questions, try to use the same answer choices, if possible
5. Avoid confusing answer choices

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Working with Presenters

1. Communication & Preparation
2. Using responses to increase interactivity

Communication & Preparation

1. Communication between presenters & ARS tech is key to successful presentation.
2. Need to have support of presenters
3. Give presenters an ARS tip sheet
4. Presenters should provide ARS questions as early as possible

Communication & Preparation

(cont.)

5. Ideally, have a face to face to discuss ARS
6. Presenters need to be aware of on-the-fly questions
7. Presenters need to be aware of allowing time for discussion when designing presentation
8. Someone needs to give instructions to audience

Working with Presenters

1. Communication & Preparation
2. Using responses to increase interactivity

Using Responses to Increase Interactivity

1. Emphasize follow-up discussion, not just data
 - Allow time for discussion
 - Encourage discussion
 - Be prepared for unexpected responses
2. Use “So, what...?” and “So, why...?” questions
3. Presenters will need to prompt peer-to-peer discussion

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ARS Technician

Must have an ARS tech
who knows how to run the
system!