

CHRISTIAN OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP

12 STEPS to EXPLAINING w/ ELOQUENCE

Eloquent teaching requires identifying a goal or dream for your interaction with the group. The Apostle Peter sets a very high standard for us as Christian outdoor leaders: “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God (1 Peter 4:10-11).” Since we are accountable to God for what we teach, let's make sure that we are careful to keep the Bible as our curriculum, and trust the Holy Spirit to be the one who illumines and opens the eyes of people's hearts. We don't have to be super-teachers, we are simply asked to allow the Bible to speak for itself and do our best to present the message of Scripture with winsomeness and accuracy.

- I. OPENING HOOK** This phrase needs to start with where your audience is to get their attention.
- 2. WHY THEY NEED TO KNOW?** The next trick of the trade is to state creatively in a short phrase why they need to know what we are about to share with them. This appeals especially to imaginative learners.
- 3. DISEQUILIBRIUM** Initiate a slight disequilibrium in the group. This is often best achieved by sharing some novel illustration (object lesson) or information that casts a new perspective on something that is familiar to them.
- 4. ANTICIPATE** Provide an Anticipatory Set (discussed in chapter 7) to set the stage for the work that is going to be required to learn something new. Here you are simply telling them what they are about to learn.
- 5. PRIME THE PUMP w/ UNIQUE PROBLEM** Provide a simple and unique problem to solve. This primes the pump for creative thinking. You could also ask a few questions that are difficult to answer to show the group that they have not mastered this subject and have something to learn.
- 6. COACH** Pick up to 3 main points or principles to keep your teaching focused.
- 7. ILLUSTRATE** Offer an illustration or story to demonstrate an example of each main point.
- 8. DO DRILLS** Involve everyone in an activity that is hands on. Encourage relational learners who ascertain by participating to make observations of what they are learning from the hands on exercise. Drills are ways to help your group practice a needed skill.
- 9. DE-BRIEF** Use exploratory questions to help analytical learners verbalize what they've learned and what they would like to do with their knowledge.
- 10. APPLY/REFLECT** Facilitate personal reflection how what they've learned relates to an everyday situation.
- 11. GENERALIZE & TRANSFER** How am I motivating my group to transfer what has been learned to future endeavors? What response do I expect of them from this workshop? What are the potential spin-offs or benefits of learning this skill or knowledge?
- 12. EVALUATION** Spend some time evaluating your teaching: a) strengths, b) growth areas, c) questions that arose that would require you to do some further study for next time you teach this topic.