# Communication Rules For a **Successful** Career in Fitness

Jenny Rearick

### What do we all want?



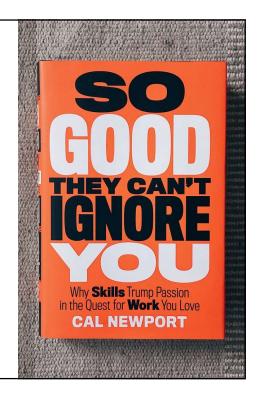


Be creative

Have impact

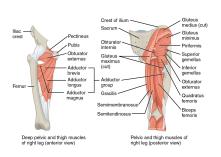
Have control

Rare and valuable skills



# Rare and valuable skills

### Technical Knowledge & Skills



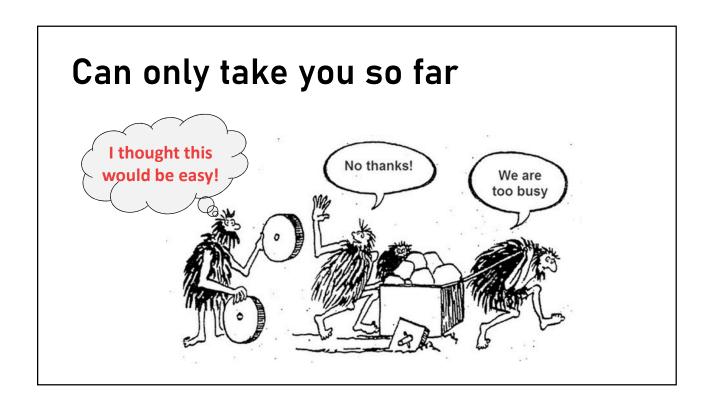
#### Ability to Communicate



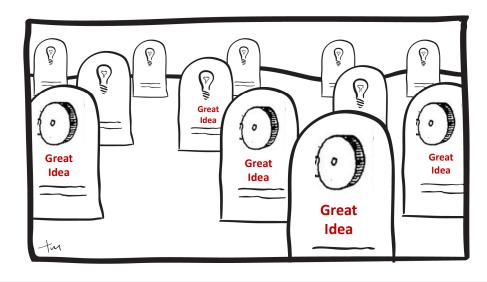
# Technical knowledge & skills



Higher education
Certification programs
Continuing education courses
Conferences
Colleagues
Self-directed learning

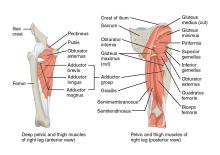


# **Graveyard of great ideas**



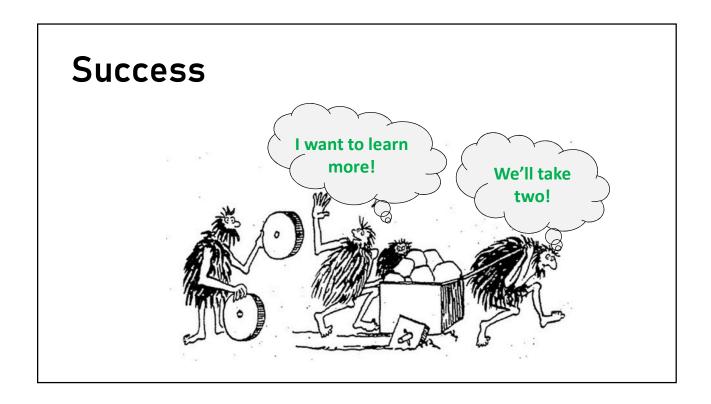
# Spend time developing both

### Technical Knowledge & Skills



#### **Ability to Communicate**



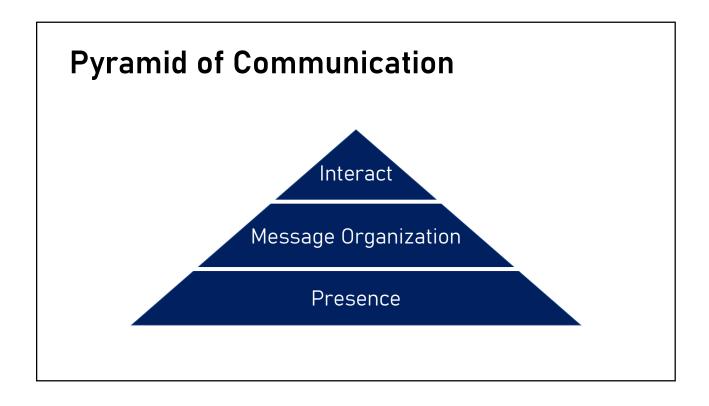


# Our time together

- Effective communication
- 10 Communication Rules
- Webinar survey
- What now?



What defines effective communication?



### **Presence**

Physical

How others 'see' you



Vocal

How others 'hear' you



# When a message is unorganized







### 10 Communication Rules

# Rule 1: Know what you look & sound like

- 1. Eyes
- 2. Hands
- 3. Standing and moving
- 4. Volume
- 5. Rate
- 6. Filler words



# Rule 2: Dress like a professional

- 1. Think and feel about yourself (self-image)
- 2. Think and feel about them



Your appearance either upgrades or downgrades the perceived value of what you have to say.





# Rule 2: Dress like a professional

- Professional ≠ expensive
- Clean, fitted clothing
- Hair groomed
- Fresh breath
- No body odor



Nothing about your appearance should distract from your words.

# Rule 3: Make eye contact

- 1. Look at <u>individuals</u> while you speak
- 2. Look at the person speaking to you

#### Benefits to you:

- Look confident
- Slows you down
- Calms your nerves
- Helps develop connection





Rule 4: Use strong body language



# Rule 5: Speak up

All powerful people...

- Speak slowly
- · Enunciate their words
- Express themselves loudly
- Express themselves confidently

Speak to the person farthest away from you.



# Rule 5: Speak up

Coach in the way you expect people to engage.

Soft-spoken Closed body language Easily distracted

They'll bring that same energy.

### Rule 6: Eliminate filler words

Um

Uh

Like

You know

So

**Right** 

You sound:

- Unsure
- Nervous
- Not smart

If it's not helping, it's hurting.

### Rule 7: Learn how to listen

Matthew McKay, two things:

- Commitment
- Compliment

#### Pseudo listening:

- Fake interest
- One specific piece
- · Want them to listen to you



### Rule 7: Learn how to listen

### How to actively listen:

Paraphrase

Clarify

Give feedback



#### The best career advice I've ever received:

Treat everyone you meet like they're the most important person in the world.

Mindset

**Action** 





Acceptance



Appreciation



Admiration



Approval



Attention



Agreement



Look directly at them and smile - when they join, when they speak, when they leave.

Brian Tracy, Six As

# Rule 8: Make others feel important



Say thank you for what they do or say that is helpful.

"Thanks for your help putting away the kettlebells."



Compliment them - on what they do, say, or what they have.

"You do a great job making everyone feel like they're a part of the group."

Brian Tracy, Six As

# Rule 8: Make others feel important



Give praise and approval, and make it immediate and specific.

"Great work on your hang cleans today. They looked much faster than last week."



Listen closely, make eye contact, nod, smile, and be interested.

Brian Tracy, Six As

# Rule 8: Make others feel important



Be generally agreeable and disagree only after having acknowledged.

#### Rule 9: Tell the truth

#### When you:

Don't know the answer

Can't give what they need

Make a mistake

say so

"If you tell the truth,
you don't have to
remember
anything."
— Mark Twain

People don't like liars.

# Rule 10: Write and present more

You will...

- Think more clearly
- Learn more
- Be smarter

"If you can think, and speak, and write, you are absolutely deadly."

- Jordan B. Peterson



### 10 Communication Rules

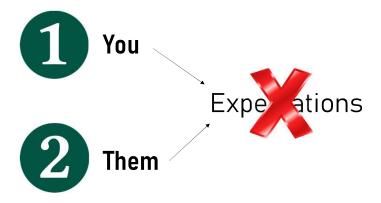
- 1. Know what you look & sound like
- 2. Dress like a professional
- 3. Make eye contact
- 4. Use strong body language
- 5. Speak up
- 6. Eliminate filler words
- 7. Learn how to listen
- 8. Make others feel important
- 9. Tell the truth
- 10. Write and present more



### Webinar Question:

What communication skills do you need to work on the most?

# **Tough Conversations**



# **Tough Conversations**

#### Transactional Analysis:

- Parent: Commands and value judgements "should"
- Child: Emotion and energy "I wish", "I hate", "Why do I have to?"
- Adult: Direct and straight "It sounds like", "I see", "I feel", "Tell me"



Eric Berne

# **Tough Conversations**

#### Before the conversation:

- 1. What is the problem?
- 2. What does the other person think is the problem?
  - If you don't know, ask

# **Tough Conversations**

#### Leading:

- "I think/see, I feel, I want"
  - Objective
  - Emotion without blame
  - Direct, be specific
- Actively listen
- Paraphrase
- Moving forward

#### Receiving:

- Actively listen
- Paraphrase
- Respond
  - Acknowledgment
  - Clouding
  - Probing
- Moving forward

# **Written Communications**

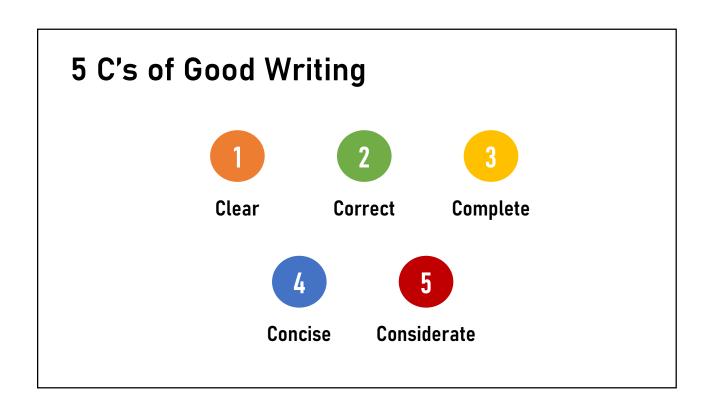
Goal = Reader-friendly

• Shares message without taxing reader

#### **Principles:**

- Simple and direct is impressive
- Words you don't use are more important than words you use
- · Message up front





# 5 C's of Good Writing



Word usage Good grammar Punctuation Sentence structure

Don't show off; communicate.

# **5 C's of Good Writing**



Correct

Information is accurate

Free of errors

# 5 C's of Good Writing



Provide all information needed to:

Learn Act

Be inspired

# 5 C's of Good Writing



Nothing more than what's necessary

# 5 C's of Good Writing



Doesn't waste time

Doesn't question reader's intelligence

# Filler Words

- What am I known for?
- Self-correct and start the sentence over
- Practice off-the-cuff while recording (easy topic)
- Accountability buddy

"Vocal equivalent of clearing your throat."
- Richard Dowis

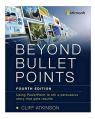
# **Presenting**

# Physical & Vocal Skills





#### Message Organization





#### Delivery Skills



# What now?



"Practice only on the days you eat." - Shinichi Suzuki

# Start improving now

#### www.ninetofiveathlete.com

- Free PDF
- Monthly newsletter
- Upcoming courses
- Educational articles



#### YOU'VE SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS

educating yourself in the technical knowledge of your field. You've taken time off of work and paid your own way to attend continuing education seminars to hone your skills. You've spent late nights and weekends writing and rewriting programs until they were just right. All because you love what you do, you want to help the clients and athletes you work with, and you want to have a successful career in fitness.

To take full advantage of the knowledge you've earned, the skills you've honed, and the relationships you've built, you need to develop your ability to communicate.

Fitness professionals who have developed their ability to effectively communicate think more clearly, are secure and confident, and have an exceptionally higher chance of getting the clientele and opportunities they want.

To get you started down the road of communication, I want to share three common communication challenges you face and what you cand do about them. These may be only three on a long list of challenges, but the information and tactics shared in response to them are applicable to many more. I encourage you to consider how you might apply what you read – making it specific to your working environment and clientele.



# If you want a coach

- Presentation development
- Presentation design
- Presentation review
- Speeches
- Delivery
- Virtual communication
- Interview preparation
- Business writing



# Thank You,



Jenny Rearick

ninetofiveathlete@gmail.com

@ninetofiveathlete

www.ninetofiveathlete.com