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# **"COMEDY FORMULAS THAT WORK"**

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#### The Making Fun of Yourself Formula: Turning Problems into Punchlines

Every speaker has to do this exercise -- it's making fun of yourself. It may seem a little counter-intuitive to your expertise, but it takes a confident person to make fun of htemselves.

#### **EXERCISE 1: MAKING FUN OF YOURSELF**

In this exercise, think about something that is not too flattering about yourself or what jokes people may say behind your back or what negative defects people might see when they meet you. I'm going to help you how to turn those problems into punchlines.

#### The Formula:

I'm [INSERT DEFECT] Woohoo!" Hey there are advantages to being [INSERT DEFECT] [INSERT ADVANTAGE] [INSERT ADVANTAGE] [INSERT ADVANTAGE]

1. Create a list of what people see when you walk out on stage. Is there anything striking that people can see?

[e.g., your weight, receding hairline, your ethnicity, your height, DO NOT use being lactose intolerant because people can't see that.]









2. Look at your speech, read through and list any "negatives qualities" or "defects" you my list in your speech. Make a list below. [e.g., you're overly scared, you're a worrywart, you're not the best communicator]

3. List things people may say behind your back or make fun of you about. If you can't think of anything, than you can say "I'm in denial." [e.g., you're a micro-manager, you're a bad boss ]

4. From the three prior lists, pick three qualities you want to work with.

5. Give a funny reason why it's an advantage. List 5 advantages [e.g., You can list anything here. Be funny. Use your imagination!]









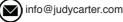
6. Let's write the joke.

```
"I'm ...
"Woohoo!"
"Hey there are advantages to being ...
```

```
"I'm ...
"Woohoo!"
"Hey there are advantages to being ...
```

```
"I'm ...
"Woohoo!"
"Hey there are advantages to being ...
```

```
"I'm ...
"Woohoo!"
"Hey there are advantages to being ...
```







#### EXERCISE 2: HANDLING HECKLERS

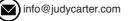
Stand up comics get heckled. Speakers, not so much, but you will get heckled in life by your loved ones. Don't get mad ... get funny! First repeat the insult and then you exaggerate it! People love people who do not take themselves so seriously.

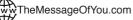
The Formula:

You think I'm [INSERT INSULT] Got it, sometimes I am. Matter of fact ... [INSERT EXAGGERATION]

1. Make a list of things people have called you.

2. Make a list of an exaggeration of that insult.









#### The Mix Formula:

A [something] is just like just like [something completely different] ...

1. A pen is just like sex because:

2. Accountants are just like snails because ...

3. Cats are just like mother-in-laws because ...









#### The List of Three Formula: One, Two and TURN

Anytime you have a list or a Power Point slide presentation, the third one has to be funny. Keep people laughing and they will love you! It's better than putting people to sleep.

The Formula:

[The set up using one of the FOUR ATTITUDE WORDS] **[INSERT STATEMENT ONE]** [INSERT STATEMENT TWO], [INSERT STATEMENT THREE - The Turn]

1. First list of three: BIG, BIG, small It's a SCARY world out there. We have terrorism, we have wars, we have ... (insert something small)

2. Secod list of three: small, small, BIG

Break ups are HARD. There are three subtle clues that your relationship is over ...

(Hint: First two are unfunny and subtle, and the last one is over-the-top obvious)









3. Third list of three: Obvious, obvious, weird It's SCARY how being broke can just happen. There are three signs that you are broke ...

4. Fourth list of three: Subtle, subtle, obvious It's HARD breaking an addition. You know it's time to stop drinking when ...

5. Corporate list of three: Subtle, subtle, obvious There are three subtle clues that communications in your department is deteriorating ...









#### **Tools to Get Your Story Out**

#### *The Message of You: Turn Your Life Story Into a Money-Making Speaking Career* (St. Martin's Press, 2013)

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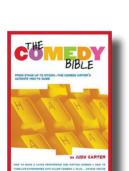
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