

# Victoria Lodge of Education and Research

650 Fisgard St, Victoria, B.C. Canada

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## **A PEDAGOGY FOR MASONIC EDUCATION Methods and Strategies for Presenting Masonic Education**

This is an abstract of a Power Point presentation made to the Victoria Lodge of Education and Research on Tuesday November 20 2007 by W. Bro. Phil Wakefield of Goldstream Lodge No. 161, BC&YR. W. Bro. Wakefield is the District Education Officer for District 21 and in his capacity as such was invited to address the lodge.

### **What is pedagogy?**

Pedagogy is the art and science of learning and teaching.

### **Why study pedagogy?**

To make Masonic education more:

- ✓ Interesting.
- ✓ Engaging.
- ✓ Fun.

### **What are the benefits?**

The benefits are:

- ✓ Improved retention of Masonic knowledge.
- ✓ Fostering intellectual and philosophical discussion.
- ✓ Encouraging brethren to research for themselves.
- ✓ Improving our Order in general.

### **Why this Presentation?**

This presentation was prepared to support our Grand Master's theme, "*Look Beyond the Trees*," the emphasis of which is on education. Thus it is intended to encourage the listener to find new knowledge and study new areas in his efforts to further Masonic enlightenment and education.

- ✓ Education is a key component of the *Five Pillar Plan*. (The *Five Pillar Plan* is a strategic plan developed by the Grand Lodge of BC and Yukon which embraces leadership, education, communication, membership, and community.)
- ✓ Education can improve member interest
- ✓ Education can improve lodge attendance.

### **What is the purpose of this presentation?**

The purpose of this presentation is to put some tools in everyone's Masonic Education toolbox.

### **Who is this presentation for? (i.e. who is the target audience?)**

- ✓ Directors of Masonic Education (lodge education officers).
- ✓ any brother presenting education.
- ✓ non-Masonic presenters.

### **What is covered in this presentation?**

This presentation lists eight instructional methods and provides some interesting topic for discussion. It suggests possible resources and some "tricks of the trade" or strategies for effective presentations, together with tips for the novice presenter.

**Eight Instructional Methods are:**

- (1) the lecture
- (2) role-playing
- (3) the play
- (4) the closet drama
- (5) the demonstration
- (6) breaking and mending rules
- (7) the debate
- (8) the contest

**1. The Lecture**

The lecture is a discourse on a particular topic. It requires minimal to extensive preparation.

**2. Role-Playing**

In role-playing, participants act out characters in a predefined, unscripted and risk-free “situation.” Participants must understand their roles and the setting in which those roles will be played out. Role plays require moderate preparation time.

**3. The Play**

A play, or stage play, is a form of literature that almost always consists of dialogue between characters and is intended for performance rather than reading. Preparation time is moderate to extensive. This instructional method may require multi-lodge participation for actors, props and costume preparation.

**4. The Closet Drama**

A closet drama is a play that is intended to be read by a solitary reader or sometimes performed by a small group. Preparation time is moderate if the drama is performed. Participants should pre-read and practice their lines prior to their performance; lines can be read during the performance.

**5. The Demonstration**

The demonstration provides the link between “knowing about” something and “being able to do” something. Preparation time ranges from minimal to moderate if it requires more than one brother to assist.

**6. Breaking and Mending Rules**

Breaking and mending of the rules is a variation of the demonstration. It requires moderate preparation time, and may require one or more brethren to assist with the demonstration.

**7. The Debate**

A debate is a structured contest of argumentation in which two opposing individuals, or teams, defend and attack a given proposition. Preparation time for a debate ranges from moderate to extensive. Participating Brethren must prepare materials to support or oppose a proposition.

**8. The Contest**

The educational contest is conducted by a Master of Ceremonies who asks a series of questions, carefully prepared in advance, the correct answers to which can be given in one or two words, a date or a name. This is a great educational opportunity. Preparation time is usually moderate.

### **Some Interesting Topics for the preceding instructional methods:**

- ✓ Philosophy
- ✓ History
- ✓ Ritual
- ✓ Masonic Law and Jurisprudence
- ✓ Manners, Conduct and Etiquette
- ✓ Landmarks and Symbols
- ✓ Poetry
- ✓ Songs and Music
- ✓ Inter-personal Relationships and human behaviour

### **Resources**

- ✓ Lodge libraries and web sites.
- ✓ Grand Lodge libraries and web sites.
- ✓ Personal libraries.
- ✓ Personal observations and experiences

### **Tricks of the Trade [Strategies]**

- ✓ Allow time for discussion.
- ✓ Use Socratic discussion (a conversation or discussion wherein two or more people assist one another in finding the answers to difficult questions. In this technique, the teacher professes ignorance of the topic in order to engage in dialogue with the students. With this “acting dumb,” the student develops the fullest possible knowledge about the topic).
- ✓ Use props.
- ✓ Wear costumes.
- ✓ Pre-arrange audience participation.
- ✓ Use the audience.
- ✓ Use audio and visual aids.

### **Tips for the Novice Presenter**

- ✓ Be organized.
- ✓ Be prepared. (Boy Scout motto)
- ✓ Be yourself.
- ✓ Just Do It! (trademark Nike corporation)

### **Where are we and where do we go from here?**

- ✓ Encourage.
- ✓ Support.
- ✓ Advertise.

### **Credits**

Written and presented by WB Philip Wakefield, Goldstream Lodge #161, GL of BC & Yukon, December 6, 2007.

### **Ideas and supplemental information from:**

*Sugar Coating Masonic Education*, GL of Louisiana;  
*Meeting our Obligations through Masonic Knowledge and Education*, RWB  
William Boone, GL New Brunswick; and  
Wikipedia.

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