

“A preacher should be a live coal to kindle all the church” -Emerson

Resources related to organizing, writing, and delivering a Dharma Talk

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How to organize your thoughts:

- Distill the essence of what you want to say into one sentence. In doing so you've identified the essence of what you want to say. When everything else you say is in support of that one big idea, your talk will be clearer and more compelling.
 - [From the Inc.com story [The 1 Sentence That Will Make You a More Effective Speaker Every Time](#)]

Public speaking

- An hour long video “[How To Speak](#)” by Patrick Winston. Winston was a computer scientist and MIT professor. This talk was a tradition at MIT for 40 years.

TED Talk related:

- The book TED Talks: The Official TED Guide to Public Speaking [[Amazon link](#)]
- A 50 minute [YouTube interview](#) with Chris Anderson, the author of the above book.

Body language

- A TED Talk entitled [Your body language may shape who you are](#), This includes the idea of ‘Fake it until you make it’ aka ‘Fake it until you become it’ - i.e. that simply adopting a posture (e.g. a power pose) or role will create a physiological change.
Has a graphic describing what contributes to a positive presence. Those attributes are confidence, passion, enthusiasm, engagement, comfort, and authenticity.

Overall tips on the whole process

- [How To Write and Deliver a Sermon](#)
- [Some Thoughts on How to Prepare and Deliver a Zen Dharma Talk](#), James Ford, 2017
- [How to Prepare a Zen Dharma Talk: Thirteen Points](#) | Peter Schireson and James Ford, 2013

Homiletics [[Wikipedia](#)] - The application of the general principles of rhetoric to the specific art of public preaching. Most often this is related to Judeo-Christian preaching, but many of the principles would apply to our subject.

- [Homiletics – The Basics](#) (They had the catchy slogan of “Don’t go to church, Be the church”)
- A 100+ page [PDF on Homiletics](#)
- [Homiletics 101 Part 1](#) by James Ishmael Ford Roshi (Shogaku Zen Institute)

Motivation

- [Teaching and Confusing the Dharma](#), an essay from the [Insight Journal](#) of the [Barre Center for Buddhist Studies](#)
- “[Literal Means and Hidden Meanings: A New Analysis of Skillful Means](#)”, an essay by Asaf Federman on Upaya