

FROM SLIDES TO STORIES

Elevating Business Communication with PowerPoint Karaoke



Introduction: Once Upon a Time, in the Classroom

Students were stuck in the same old way of passive learning. They listened to lectures, memorized facts, and repeated this day after day. It was like following a recipe without ever actually cooking a meal. It was boring, and it wasn't working. The dread of public speaking, a common fear among many, loomed over the classroom. Rare were the opportunities for students to practice this critical skill, with most shying away from the mere thought of presenting in front of an audience.

Literature Review: Every Day, the Call for Change Echoed

Every day, people talked about how students need to be more involved. "They need to be part of the story, not just hear it," was frequently lamented. Experts said that when students actually do things and not just listen, they learn better and remember more. Researchers found that active learning strategies could significantly increase presentation skills and reduce the common fear of public speaking.

One day, inspiration struck from the vibrant world of improvisation and the transformative power of the "Yes, And" philosophy. This breakthrough highlighted the critical need for innovative teaching methods that fostered active learning through quick thinking, adaptability, and a fearless embrace of the unknown.

Furthermore, the dichotomy between narrative and storytelling emerged as a crucial point of discussion. While narrative provides the structure, the backbone of any presentation, storytelling brings the color, the personal flair that makes each delivery unique and memorable. The integration of these concepts could revolutionize how students engage with and understand the art of public speaking.

Methods: Because of That, A Revolutionary Approach Was Born

A scaffolded assignment structure was devised, starting with students preparing PowerPoint drafts on persuasive topics they chose themselves. They were guided by a template that mixed a clear narrative structure with the creative freedom of storytelling. Once these were ready, the real challenge began: PowerPoint Karaoke.

Results: And Because of That, The Classroom Transformed

Students took turns presenting PowerPoint slides they had never seen before. It was scary at first, but they got the hang of it quickly. They got better at thinking on their feet and sharing their thoughts clearly. Through this exercise, students improved not just in delivering structured content but in weaving personal stories on the fly, marrying a planned narrative with creative storytelling in a dance of quick wit and engaging dialogue.

Conclusion: Until Finally, A New Chapter in Education Emerged

The results were clear: students not only honed their public speaking skills but also developed a deeper understanding of business communication as a creative, improvisational art form. This shift was not just academic; it was a transformation that equipped them with the skills to thrive in the ever-changing business landscape.

Epilogue: The Legacy of Innovation

The legacy of this innovative teaching method continued to ripple through the educational community, inspiring others to reevaluate their approaches to teaching and learning. Like the ocean cleansing itself of the fibers that once polluted its waters, the classroom became a space of clarity, creativity, and endless possibility, where every student could navigate their own path to success, armed with the skills to adapt, innovate, and inspire.

(Written with ChatGPT)



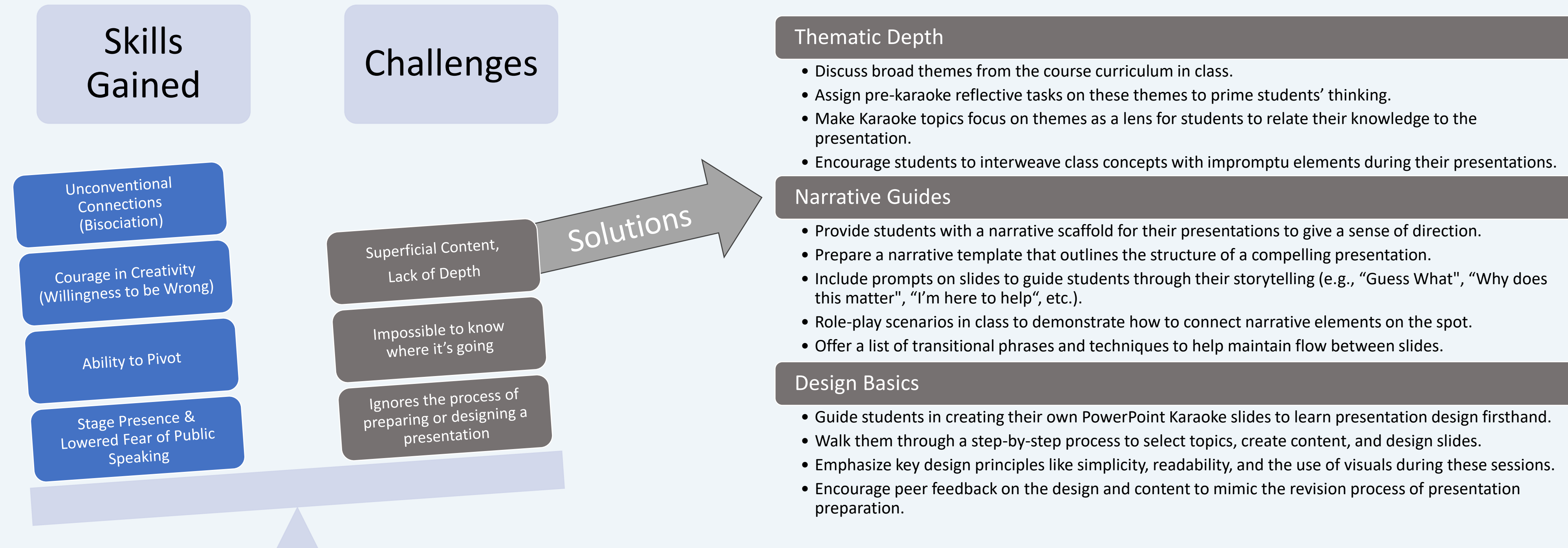
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BUSINESS COMMUNICATION (BCOM3360) — PUBLIC SPEAKING & PRESENTATION DESIGN SKILLS

In my Business Communication class, I have implemented a PowerPoint Karaoke exercise to help students with public speaking & presentation design skills. **PowerPoint Karaoke** is an improvisational game which requires speakers to present on unseen slides, encouraging spontaneity and quick thinking. Its application in education mirrors improv theater, demanding adaptability and a willingness to embrace the unknown, key attributes for active learning.

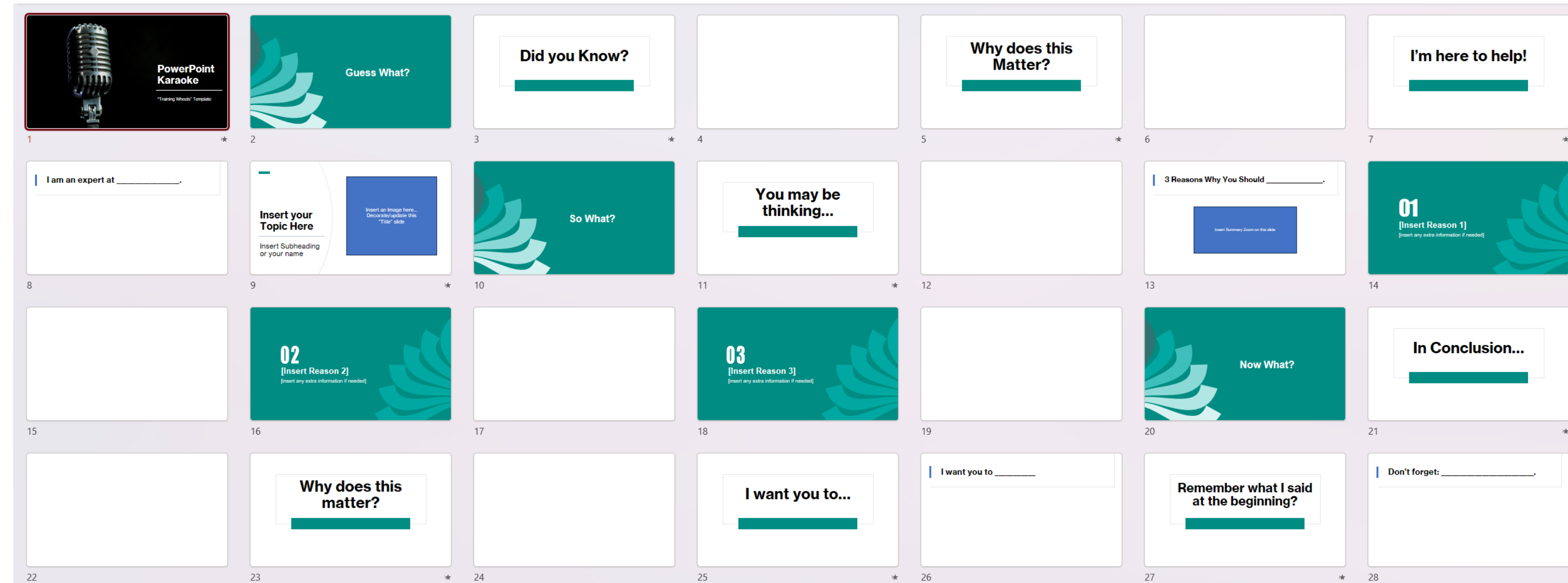


AMALGAMATION OF STORYTELLING & NARRATIVE SKILLS

	Narrative	Storytelling
Definition	Narrative provides a structured sequence and context, framing the content to be delivered.	Storytelling is the creative and personal expression within that framework.
Role in Structure	Acts as the skeleton of the presentation, outlining the flow and key points.	Provides the flesh and muscles, filling the skeleton with life and details.
Role in Engagement	Ensures coherence and progression, helping the audience follow the presenter's journey.	Captivates the audience, making each presentation unique and memorable.
Function in Learning	Teaches the importance of organization and direction in communication.	Encourages flexibility, quick thinking, and the ability to connect with others.
Improvisation	Minimal; narrative is predetermined and offers a clear path forward.	High; storytelling relies on the presenter's ability to improvise within the narrative's frame.
Content Creation	Narrative is more about the arrangement of content, focusing on form and function.	Storytelling is about the spontaneous generation of content, focusing on creativity and personalization.
Synergy in Karaoke	In PowerPoint Karaoke, narrative gives presenters a set of cues and directions, leading the flow of the session.	In the same setting, storytelling allows presenters to interpret these cues in their own way, making each presentation distinctive.

NARRATIVE TEMPLATE – POWERPOINT KARAOKE “TRAINING WHEELS”

Students learned the narrative of a presentation by creating their own PowerPoint draft with this template. They then presented on someone else's completed draft (with "training wheels" intact).



POWERPOINT KARAOKE ASSIGNMENT SCAFFOLDING

(1) PowerPoint Draft — (with Karaoke Template)

Students were given a PowerPoint template with task of adding content to each blank Karaoke slide. The "training wheels" acted as a narrative.

A PowerPoint workshop was held in class to guide students on design best practices. Slides should have minimal text and include functional artwork and animation.

(2) Narrative & Storytelling Practice with ChatGPT (Homework Discussion)

Download an exemplary PowerPoint Karaoke draft. Study each slide methodically, noting down all visible elements.

Craft a description for EACH slide (list them out as Slide 1: description, Slide 2: description, etc.), detailing every visual and textual element.

Using your detailed slide descriptions, engage ChatGPT to help generate a well-structured and lively presentation script. Use the CAPE model shown below to create a relevant prompt.



Context

- Limit possibilities by being specific about the scenario.
- I am preparing a script for a business presentation based on PowerPoint slides I have described here: "(copy in your descriptions from step 1 in quotation marks)"

Action

- Use a verb to articulate the end goal
- Generate a script suitable for a live presentation based on these slide descriptions.

Persona

- Think of someone you would want to complete this task
- Envision a presenter who is an expert in the topic, confident and enthusiastic about sharing insights.

Exemplar

- Specify tone, style, length, and any other format requirements
- The script should be engaging, mirroring the informative style of a seasoned tour guide who is skilled at presenting smoothly between points. Infuse the script with alacrity and enthusiasm, ensure the structure is clear and logical, and incorporate a tone that conveys credibility and an understanding of the topic.

Post to the discussion board:

- ChatGPT CAPE prompt
- Final ChatGPT script

Give and receive feedback on other student posts. Analyze the narrative and storytelling output.

Consider the following prompts to help you continue the conversation:



- #### Slide Descriptions
- Assess the clarity and vividness of the descriptions.
 - Could you visualize the slide based on the description alone?
 - Suggest specific areas where more detail could have painted a fuller picture or where unnecessary details could be streamlined.



- #### ChatGPT Prompt
- Evaluate the effectiveness of their prompt structure.
 - Was it clear and detailed? Did it follow the CAPE model appropriately?
 - Offer suggestions on how the prompt could be refined for better results.



- #### ChatGPT Output
- Critique the script generated by ChatGPT.
 - Does it align well with the slide descriptions provided?
 - Discuss the narrative flow, the use of language, and how well it seems to engage an audience.
 - Where does the script excel in storytelling, and where could it improve?



- #### Overall Storytelling
- Engage with the overall storytelling quality.
 - How well did the descriptions, prompt, and script come together to create an engaging narrative?
 - Consider offering insights on pacing, coherence, and emotional impact.



- #### Constructive Feedback
- Provide specific, constructive feedback.
 - Instead of simply stating a preference or dislike, explain why something works or doesn't work in the context of effective storytelling and presentations.

(3) PowerPoint Karaoke

Students present on someone else's completed PowerPoint (with "training wheels" intact).

Narrative: Act as a "tour guide" by including clear transitions and direction.

Storytelling: Practice stage presence, engagement, alacrity, and creativity.

(4) Reflection (In-Class Discussion)

In-Class: Students provide feedback on each other's stage presence in canvas discussion board. Instructor provides feedback on narrative effectiveness.

Homework: Students review the feedback they received in class & write a reflection on how to improve narrative, storytelling, PowerPoint design, & stage presence skills.

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