



Transforming East Alabama Mathematics

The East Alabama Partnership for the Improvement of Mathematics Education

TIPS FOR PRESENTERS Stay on Message

1. **Stay on message** -- Don't get derailed!
 - It's not about textbooks or instructional materials.
 - It's not about drama and politics.
 - It's not about having a gripe session.**It's all about making a difference for students and teachers in East Alabama.**
2. **It's not about you** – even though you're terrific!
 - It's not about any of your personal agendas, soapboxes, or axes to grind.
 - It's not about you enhancing your own self-image with your colleagues.
 - The goal is to help the participants think more deeply about their teaching.
 - You are speaking on behalf of TEAM-Math, not yourself.
 - NOTE: The TEAM-Math messages are not just random opinions.
 - You need to uphold the purposes of *each and every* session.**Please deal with any questions or issues beforehand.**
3. **Stay on the same page** – We are a TEAM!
 - Be willing to help when there is a need, even if it isn't "your job."
 - Provide *constructive* feedback to your fellow presenters and project staff.
 - If you have questions or concerns, raise them with the appropriate people.
 - Grumbling or griping doesn't help... especially not to participants!**We can accomplish the impossible when we work together.**
4. **Stay positive!**
 - Deal with negatives matter-of-factly and move on.**Stay focused on what we *can* accomplish.**
5. **Be enthusiastic!** -- Your attitude speaks at least as loud as your words.
6. **Be prepared!** -- Don't just wing it!
 - Look things over ahead of time.**If you have questions, don't be afraid to ask!**
7. **Practice what you preach.**
 - If you want your participants to be good listeners with their students, then you have to model being a good listener.
 - If you want them to be open and flexible, then you must do the same.
 - What you say must match with what you do.**NOTE: This applies just as much to pedagogical sessions as it does to TEAM Challenges and grade-level sessions.**
8. **And most important of all... HAVE FUN!**