

Cross the Bridge !

A door. People in front of it, people behind it. What if this door was not a separation but on the contrary, a bridge, a bridge between two worlds, connecting “people with many questions” to “people with a few answers”?

When you cross this bridge for the first time, you may feel awkward when you test our Toastmaster (TM) sessions because you are sometimes asked to improvise! Let me reassure you, the first step is the hardest because the more you speak the more you get used to it. I am sure you will catch the TM speaking virus like the rest of us!

Being part of a community like ours does imply some effort however:

- you have to come to meetings and pay your dues,
- you have to sign up on the website and take an active part by taking responsibility for different roles,
- you have to listen to other people and evaluate them,
- you have to express yourself through projects or improvisations and accept to be assessed by others.

“You have to...” In fact nobody is forcing you because you will see that you will do these things with pleasure. Indeed, it feels good to learn, speak, and share in our club. Come and see for yourself!

Experiencing this learn-by-doing environment makes you see things differently. You become more and more open, not only to others but also to yourself. When you try to think of a topic for your speaking projects, you have to plunge inside of you, search through the database of your memories, feelings and knowledge in order to take the best of what you can offer by creating a great project to share. It's like a deep dive into your soul and it feels great to come back with a treasure, both original and unique. A personal jewel!

Everyday life is filled with all sorts of duties, it can really be exciting to take some time to use your creativity and explore a new world with many opportunities.

For me, TM is like a bubble, a valve, a breeding ground for self-expression that helps me connect with people with different:

- backgrounds,
- ages,
- objectives, and
- opinions.

However, the common trait between us all is probably the shared intellectual curiosity and desire to enrich ourselves, not only through our diversity but also through the new knowledge that we either generate or gain. After each session, we all feel richer, we never feel that we are losing our time.

We don't necessarily find answers for everything. However we explore, create and find ways to progress.

Whatever may be your objective, either honing your speaking skills, improving your English, or becoming an effective communicator or leader, you'll find much satisfaction here. You'll join a team willing to take you onboard for a great trip.

Now, forget about this door between you and us and feel free to cross the bridge in order to admire the wonderful views of our living minds... at Toastmasters!

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