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About the Author

Glenda May has a highly successful track record as a trainer, coach and consultant. As an organisational psychologist specialising in leadership and interpersonal skills, Glenda has delivered over 3000 days of training in seven countries for leading clients including GE, Motorola, Holden and AXA

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ADJ LAND WING IT! DON'T TRY AND WING IT!

Abraham Lincoln said "If I have 8 hours to chop down a tree, I would spend 6 hours sharpening my axe."

Training with impact doesn't happen by accident.

The more time you spend planning, the sharper your axe will be.

The rule of thumb is: For every hour of delivery, you need to spend 4 hours on planning and preparing.





Do a needs analysis

What is the skill level of the learner and where does it need to be?

Is this really a training issue? Might it be something else? Poor job fit? Lack of motivation? A personal problem?

Is a training workshop the best intervention to close the performance gap?

3.WHOIS AUDIENCE

Find out everything you can about your participants.

What is their previous experience?

What roles do they have?

What is their current skill level?

What are the challenges they face?

How much do they know about the topic?

What do they need to know?

What resistance might they have to your message?

The more answers you have, the more you'll be able to create a training program they'll want to be part of.



What can you do prior to your workshop so that participants know why they are turning up and why it's important to their job and the organisation?

Make a phone call to each participant to introduce yourself and answer any questions about the course.

Encourage each participant to have a conversation with their manager about expected outcomes (ideally linked into their development plans).

Run a briefing session for all participants; this can also help you as a mini needs analysis.

Send an email from the CEO on why this skill is so critical to the business.

Use technology to post a relevant video clip, podcast or article.

Invite a General Manager to introduce your session.

Adults learn best when they

- are actively involved.
 Provide many opportunities for interaction, discussion and doing.
- feel relaxed and comfortable. The more relaxed we are, the more we get into our 'right brain' which helps us be more creative and open to new ideas.
- can see relevance to their work or lives. Relate the examples to their roles and their personal experiences.

- know why they're learning something.

 They must believe it will have a personal benefit.

 They also expect to apply new knowledge and skills immediately.
- are successful. Help them master skills by practice and constructive feedback.

MAKE THE LEARNING

$I ext{ HEAR } \dots I ext{ } k_{ ext{ NOW}} \ I ext{ SEE } \dots I ext{ } remember \ I ext{ DO } \dots I ext{ understand} \ ^{confucius}_{confucius}_{d5IBC}$

Your trainees are not learning if what you are saying is going directly from your notes to their notes without going through the brains of either!

When you keep your learners active, not only will they learn and retain more, but they'll really enjoy your dynamic training.

Games and activities are a means to an end – not an end in itself.

It is important to know what outcome you're aiming for – what behavioural change or shift activities becomes easy.

PEOPLE LEARN IN DIFFERENT WAYS

Vary your methods to suit different learners.

Some are Visual - so they need to see something to remember it.

Some are Auditory - so they need to hear something to remember it.

Some are Kinesthetic

- they need to do it to learn it.

Some people need to be shown, some like to read, some prefer to listen. Others need to review and practise over and over

Use a mix of lecture, small group discussion, written case studies, live case studies, action learning projects, team presentations, video snippets, technology-based learning, and simulations

Regardless of each participant's learning style, each will find some methods that work well for them.

DEFINE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes specify what the learner will know or be able to do as a result of the training.

Write this in positive behaviour-based language. Start with the phrase:

A successful learner from this program will be able to eg...{Use web-creation tools to produce an interactive website suitable for use by primary-school children.} Effective evaluation doesn't begin when the session ends. A well-written learning outcome will help you evaluate how successful the learning was.

OPRIORITISE THE LEARNING OUTCOMES



As you cannot do everything, use these 3 points to decide on how much time and emphasis you will give to the content chunks.

- 1. What must they know?
- 2. What could they know? (if time allows)
- 3. What is nice to know?

 (will only be covered if the participants clearly have a strong working knowledge of the "must -knows")

 However this should not arise if you have been briefed well and have done a rigorous needs analysis.



Focus on 2 things:

do I want?

And where do I start - keeping my

audience in mind?

What outcome

design your program within these two bookends. Break down the

These are your bookends. You then

content into bitesized chunks that the learner can gradually absorb.

swamped they will end up overwhelmed and confused.

If you give too much the next. information, your trainees will be so

steps: Go from the known to the unknown.

before it.

Sequence your

session in logical

- · Build each new piece of knowledge or skill on the piece
- Link each topic to



What trainees learn in the training room is more likely to be applied on the job if the content resembles real-life situations.

Ask yourself continually "How can I get into their world?" "How can I connect with them?"

Make sure your examples, terminology, anecdotes, roleplays, and case studies, match closely those of your audience.

Otherwise you will see their eyes glaze over as they decide this is not relevant to them!



Have coloured paper and pens, scented markers, highlighters, koosh balls, stress balls, bendy toys, slinkies, on the tables before you start.

> This helps set the scene that this is not a boring school lecture but

will be different.

YOU

ARE THE GUIDE ON THE SIDE, NOT THE SAGE ON THE STAGE

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In a training room, there is a wealth of expertise and experience. Set up the room to maximise the opportunities for trainees to interact, not just with you, but with each other.

Rather than a lecture-style, have a U-shape, or small team tables so that the flow of communication goes to and from one another rather than through you as "the expert".

Remember that you, too, have lots to learn. Invite them to share their knowledge with you and to approach you at the break with feedback, questions or comments.

YOUR COOL (or warm!)

14.

Check that the temperature of the room is comfortable and know how to control it. Be prepared to adjust the room temp throughout your session. Ask participants now and then if the room is too cold or too stuffy.

Monitor their body language – are they yawning? Adjusting various layers of clothing?

Open the blinds and let the light in.

When you dim the lights, connecting with your group becomes harder. Your audience will find it far more difficult to see your facial expressions.

Similarly, you cannot pick up on your audience's nonverbal feedback cues. You may also help your audience fall asleep when the lights are low, especially if you are training straight after lunch!

Don't worry if there are interesting things happening outside – your captivating message will still get in.

Greet the participants before the program starts.

Smile and welcome them individually. – this is a good time to start to learn their names and build rapport. Resist any temptation to finish your preparation or read the newspaper.

There's plenty to chat about...weather, late trains, flat tyres, the effect of the drought on gardens. Chat to them about their jobs, and what they are hoping to get out of the program.

Write "Welcome" on a flip chart and surround it with each participant's name.

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HELP THEM IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

There are no difficult participants...

There are only people you haven't built rapport with.

Don't make people wrong

– help them to be right - and
comfortable. They don't
want to be singled out; they
don't want to look foolish in
front of their professional
colleagues.

Each trainee should feel free to participate in activities without fear of reprimand, embarrassment, mistakes, testing or reporting back to management.

They will then be more willing to try out new concepts and behaviours.



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View your participants as the most important people in the room.

Leave your ego at the door. Your role is to facilitate learning, not to show how you clever you are or how many activities you know.

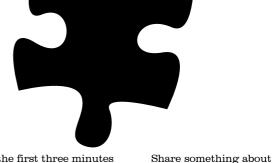
If you have something on your mind, your group will notice that you are distracted. You have to leave it outside the training room. It will wait for you!

Make a note to yourself of how you plan to deal with it and then focus on your group.

You as the facilitator are secondary to their learning. It's your job to get them connected with the content.

Remember it is their course, not yours!





In the first three minutes your audience makes a decision about you and the session.

You may find this unnerving, but you can choose this time to make a lasting impression. A good start will help you relax and get the audience on side, so it's vital to carefully rehearse those first minutes. Maybe even write down and memorise your opening words.

yourself when introducing yourself.

Explain your relationship to the topic at hand.

Be positive - avoid beginning by apologising – for anything!



Get your audience involved straight away, by using:

- An anecdote or story
- Shocking facts or statistics
- Humour
- A quotation
- A memorable visual or illustration
- Compliment your audience
- A challenge
- A topical item of news
- Some local knowledge

Icebreakers help to introduce a group so that even the shy participants don't need much courage to participate.

Weave course content into your ice-breakers to make a strong consistent start.

THE POWER OF YOUR PASSION

If you speak passionately, from your heart, and believe what you say, it doesn't matter if you're the first person or 20th to say it.

Your listeners will respond to your subject, but if you project a lack of interest, why should they care about your topic?

You need to believe you have something worthwhile to tell your participants and something you believe in.

Genuine enthusiasm and commitment is contagious.



GIVE THEM A CARROT



Be clear at the start what your trainees will get out of being in the training room. They are sitting there thinking;

What's in it for me?

How will it benefit me?

How can I use this information?

Why is this relevant to me?

Offer your audience a solution to a problem, a challenge to how they think or act, or an opportunity to learn something new.

Create your program around that offer (eg "Today I'm going to give you three tools to eliminate procrastination from your life forever...").



THE LEARNING TOURNEY

Instead of a workbook gathering dust after the program, use instead a Participant Learning Journal.

Not everyone is attending for exactly the same reason. In the course of the day, each individual's insight will be triggered by different points according to what is relevant to them.

This is their journey - and their Learning Journal is their map of this journey. The best notes are the ones that each learner takes for him or herself. Encourage them to mind-map their ideas, using symbols, colour, pictures, and key words.

Provide times during the day for reflection and capturing these trigger points.

The Learning Journal is not a text book! It is a record that they build themselves of what they want to take out of the course

Why? The learning will be better embedded for more effective transfer after the course.





Of course you need to research your group, know their objectives, prepare yourself, the space, and materials.

But don't be so attached to your plan that you let it strangle your spontaneity and your ability to be present with the group. Training sessions are interactions, not lectures.

Constantly check the energy of your audience. Their faces and body language will reflect their level of interest. Adjust your session plan if you sense the trainees:

- Do not understand you
- Seem to be confused
- Look bored
- Are daydreaming
- Are fidgeting
- Need to take a short break

...or if you sense that the course is pitched at the wrong level for this particular group.

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REVIEW ANDREFLECT THROUGHOUT

If you are exposed to an idea once, then 30 days later you will have retained less than 10% Most people need to hear something up to 6 times in order to remember it!

Revisit and review the learning points throughout your session, by using:

Quick whip-arounds, pair and share, board games, crosswords, quick quizzes, true/ false, team competitions (have the trainees create the questions themselves). Encourage participants to teach the new concept to another participant.

'Press conference' where participants write questions and then grill other teams in a simulated press conference.

Individuals write 'yes but...' concerns, or 'what exactly does it mean?' on index cards, which are sorted and responded to by other participants

Give them time on their own to reflect on the key messages and record them in their learning journals.

Small groups can create a flipchart of the key points which they then present to the other groups. Flipcharts can then be posted for reference and review throughout the workshop.

Music can be an energy source. It is also mood-changing.

Music playing in the background can help participants relax and settle in.

Play up-beat music while participants are entering, leaving and during breaks.

Play slower, more mellow music (60 - 80 beats per minute) while they are working on exercises. 26

After a break, to get their attention and get them moving back to their seats, pick a brief, up-beat song. Every time they hear this tune, they'll know they have 30 seconds left before the session resumes.

NEVER TELL IF YOU CAN

Socrates, a Greek philosopher and teacher, was renowned for his use of questioning to instruct others.

When tutoring, he would continually question the pupil, to provoke their reasoning and logic beyond the initial stages.

In this way, his pupils would "discover"knowledge, rather than be "told".

Be a philosopher and use the Socratic method of teaching.

Ask powerful open questions that begin with 5W + H. What Why When Where Who

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How

"I am always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught"

Winston Churchil

ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS AS YOU GO

Adults, like children, tend to mask how much they don't know about a subject. Do not assume the topic is understood because there are no questions.

Avoid "Do you have any questions?"

Encourage your trainees to interrupt with questions; you can gauge how they are learning- and can adjust your approach accordingly.

Have participants anonymously write questions or "yes, buts..." on index cards. Ask 'suppose' or scenario-based questions.

Tell them "There is no such thing as a dumb question"

Compliment them for asking questions. Say "That's a good question" or "I'm glad you asked me that question".



AND THE ANSWER IS...



- Try to avoid working on your answer while the person is still speaking

 really listen to what is being said.
- Paraphrase the question for everyone to hear and to clarify your understanding.
- Show respect for the question-asker.
- Reverse the question.
 Before answering, ask the participant what ideas she/he has.

- Involve the whole group in the answer.
- Respond to everyone, not just the questioner. Confirm you have answered the question that was asked.
- Admit when you don't know the answer. Offer to find out the answer and provide it later.
- Use a flipchart as a "Parking lot" for extraneous issues or unanswerable questions you need to research.

MANGE YOUR TIME

When you are running out of time, DROP the nice-to-know's.

Do not simply speed up your rate of talking!

Do not throw extra handouts at them.

And do not fall into the trap of 'telling them' because it is quicker than participative facilitation. Yes it is quicker, but NOT more effective.

Your job is to make sure the must-know's have been clearly understood.

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Psychologists tell us that retention increases up to 8 times if humor is used when presenting.

'Happy chemicals' in the brain like serotonin stimulate memory. Serotonin is naturally produced in response to music, laughter and physical activity. You don't need to be a stand-up comedian. You don't have to tell jokes or plan to be 'funny'.

Be natural, use your sense of humour and capture any amusing incidents as they arise.

BUT never at anyone's expense.

Can they see what you're saying?

Use Powerpoint to support your message – don't rely on it

- Restrict each slide to one point
- Use "parallel" bullets or numbered items (all sentences, all phrases, all begin with verbs, etc.)
- Limit animation to avoid distractions
- Create anchors (a photo or an image) for recall
- Talk to the audience not to the screen or computer

But use your visuals as aids, not crutches.

The audience wants to interact with you. Remember your most readily-available visual aid – YOU!

Yes they enjoyed themselves, but... what did they learn?

When debriefing after an activity use questions that help participants share useful insights and make real-world connections.

Ask...

What happened? Who did what?
Why do you think that happened?
Anything that went particularly well? or not?
How might you behave differently if you did this again?
What did you learn?
Have you seen this before?
Remind you of anything at work?
What if...?
How could you apply this back at work?

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MANAGE THE UNEXPECTED

Be **prepared** for the unexpected.

The workbooks haven't arrived. How can you use your presence and expertise to engage them from the start?

Someone challenges the process you're suggesting. How can you acknowledge the resistance in the group and reassure their concerns?

A participant is cynical, angry or withdrawn. How can you see their point of view and work with their resistance?

A straggler arrives late and misses the key concepts. Ask small groups to decide on the most important points and then have them teach him/her so she/ he is up to speed with the rest of you.

Consider everything that happens when you're facilitating as an opportunity.

If possible, capitalise on the unexpected to make a learning point.

Take digital photos while trainees are presenting their group work and working together. (Ask their permission of course)

Make a rotating slideshow to show in breaks and before each session.

Some participants love to have a copy after the program to remind them of their great workshop.

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WAKE THEM UP

Your participants have just returned from a break and their eyes are glazing over. Don't despair — energize them!

Have a collection of energizers that you can use when needed to raise the energy level of the group so they are more attentive and responsive to your fabulous content!

Energizers are short, quick, sometimes physical, often competitive — and always fun!

But keep in mind

you may actually reduce the impact of your session by overusing these activities or by using them at the wrong times.

Make sure they link to the content in some way and are not just randomly thrown in as a pointless "game".



"IT'S OK UTTERFLIES. BUT WE HAVE THEM TO FLY IN FORMATION,

Katherine Hepburn

Brain theory tells us that the only way to learn is by tickling the thalamus, the part of the brain that is involved in the fear response.

Make your nerves work for you. Re-label your butterflies as 'nervous energy' or 'excitement'. The adrenaline can give you an extra boost.

Tell yourself that this is what will help you come across as enthusiastic rather than apathetic or robotic.

Share your own personal experiences that relate to the topic.

This helps the group see you as a human being, rather than an authority figure. As soon as you share something that others can relate to, you gain rapport with the group or even a few good laughs. Most people like to know that others have had the same experience whether it is silly, funny or a disaster.

Stories should grab them in the heart. This will get participants sharing times where they too have

Begin with casual words like,

"Don't you hate it when..."

"The other day..."

"Has this ever happened to you?"

"I can't believe this happened..."

"I know a guy who..."

Story opportunities are present at all times.

Keep a journal of
everyday life situations great and poor customer
service experiences,
family, work, humorous,
unbelievable, or strange
stories.

Record your everyday
experiences to give you a
ready supply of real-life
examples and anecdotes,
illustrations, metaphors,
and quotations.



Getting there is half the battle.

- Confirm your travel arrangements well in advance.
- Confirm with your contact that all materials have arrived and will be in the room.
- Take a master copy with you in your carry-on luggage (suitcases may not arrive with you).
- Travel in the kind of clothes you intend to wear when conducting the training sessions (in case your luggage does not arrive).

- Arrive the day before the training. Both you and your participants will greatly benefit from your having a good night's rest.
- Get some local news or information. This or information. This will help you relate to your group better and can provide useful conversation starters. You can incorporate some into your workshop to make it more personalised for that group.

One way to become more empathetic and patient with trainees is to become a learner yourself.

You could learn a foreign language, the guitar, golf, roller-blading or even wind-surfing.

If you are personally experiencing the frustration in trying to become proficient at a new skill, you will have much more understanding of your trainees.

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To achieve a more rigorous evaluation of your program apply Kirkpatrick's 4-level model

1: Reactions.

What did they feel about the training program?

2: Learning.

What did they learn during the training program?

3: Behaviour.

What are they putting into practice on the job?

4: Results.

How are the results of the training program affecting the organisation's bottom line?

Many organisations now assess ROI, the Return On their Investment.

After all, your organisation might have spent the equivalent of a new laptop on the training for one staff member.

As professional trainers, we should welcome accountability and be prepared to put a monetary figure on the benefits of our training.

TISAP WRAP

When concluding your workshop:

- Restate objectives and confirm their achievement.
- Revisit a problem you mentioned in your opening.
- Group review. Have trainees summarise their key learning points on flipcharts.
- Small groups can create skits, murals or advertisements to present to the others in the group.
- Have participants pair off and share one important learning point that they will apply back on the job or in their lives.

- Prompt action steps.
 What will they start doing/ stop doing/ or keep doing as a result of being in this workshop.
- Leave them with a memorable idea: a quote, rhetorical question, metaphor or anecdote relating to your topic.
- Remind them to timetable a conversation with their manager about their key learnings and action steps.
- Evaluate by asking for written comments on index cards; positive on one side and an improvement suggestion on the other.
- Thank them for their energy and participation.

Without on-the-job reinforcement, up to 80% of your sensational training will have been lost!

- Encourage each trainee to time table a discussion with their manager of their learnings and planned action steps.
- Within the next week you can email participants with 2 or 3 questions to help the significant points surface.
- You, as the facilitator, can coach everyone individually at interim stages back in the workplace.
- Help facilitate a partnership between the manager and the participant. They need to meet periodically so the trainee can share his/her progress with the manager. This partnership also consists of praise, positive reinforcement, and rewards for learning and applying the training. You can work with the manager to assist this.



Specific feedback can be one of the most valuable tools for your own development.

Constantly ask for feedback from both participants and colleagues.

Ask: "What am I doing well?"

"How could I do even better?"

What are your strengths?

How could you make your training even better?

- Do you need to start with more energy?
- Are the participants clear at the start what benefits they will get out of the training?
- Do the instructions for group activities need to be clearer?
- Is your de-briefing of activities focused and relevant?
- Should you improve your linking of material?
- How could you use powerful questions to be more of a facilitator and less of a teacher?

Borrow ideas from other trainers, friends, colleagues, and research.

Brainstorm ideas with colleagues to tap into your creativity when you feel you are becoming stale.

People are usually willing to help – you just have to ask!

However it is courteous

– and ethical – to always
acknowledge others' ideas.

Watch trainers who are excellent and those who could be better

Analyse their content, their style, their delivery. What is it about those who do it well, that makes their presentations effective and memorable?

And what is it about those who do it badly that makes them particularly memorable in a bad way?

Notice not just what they say, but what they do: how they move, how they use their voices, how they look at the group, how they handle timing and questions.

When you find an excellent role model, model your approach on theirs to enrich your repertoire of skills.

L 48 TO THE FUTURE

Traditional classroom training is no longer the only way to learn.

Complement your training sessions with CDs, email briefings and follow-ups, Podcasts, online learning, chat sessions, subject matter experts.

Place white boards and marker pens near water coolers and cafeteria tables.

Set up a graffiti wall for employee comments.

Establish an online chat room to follow up classroom training.

Hold lunchtime learning sessions.

Conduct formal monthly meetings to facilitate employee sharing of important things they learned accidentally.

EEP IMPROVING

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Change is always with us.

The marketplace keeps
shifting, Customers' needs
change. Virtual teams
spring up in different
corners of the globe. Best
practices continually
transform standard
operating procedures. Rules,
regulations, and policies
keep shifting. Established
models and principles can be
discredited.

As a follow-up activity to your training, encourage participants to ask questions about any gaps, contradictions, and confusion in the content. Respond to these questions, frequently seeking help from subjectmatter experts. Incorporate these enhancements into revised content.

Post these FAQs with suitable answers online and distribute them as a follow-up document.

Continuous improvement of existing training is not a luxury. It is a necessity.

Passionate facilitation takes energy.

You need to keep yourself fit and healthy to maintain your stamina and energy.

Make sure you get sufficient sleep.

Avoid over-eating (especially when lunches are catered).

Watch the caffeine – you are probably already hyped up enough with the anticipation.

Be organised with a checklist for every program.



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Visit www.carbonfootprint.com.au and learn how to reduce your carbon footprint – in the office, at home and when you travel.

Recyle and reuse.

Carry your own refillable water bottle.

Use recycled paper for notes and printing.

Buy office materials in bulk.

Print participant manuals on both sides of the paper. Print drafts using the grey economode setting to save ink. Recycle your old mobile phone and used printer cartridges.

After your training session, recyle all your used flipcharts, paper, and empty water bottles.

And even better for the environment, have water jugs and glasses on the tables.



This might be the tenth time you have run this program, but for each participant it is the first time.

Develop the skill that actors use to ensure that each audience member experiences your performance as fresh and exciting to you as well as them

"For every audience, it is opening night"

Written by Glenda May © 2008

In today's competitive business world, sustaining positive employee morale and lasting job satisfaction is vital to the success of any organisation. Glenda May Consulting can help your business - whatever its specific needs - move forward and exceed expectations.

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Designed by Ben McIntyre from BJM Design www.bjmdesign.com.au

In this book Glenda May shares the techniques and tools that have led her to being one of the most successful trainers in Australia, sustaining her at the top of her profession for two decades.

These techniques have helped her achieve outcomes for her clients and course participants with consequent strong demand for her training services. Like her training, this book is practical, grounded in research and reflects best practice. Glenda suggests techniques - some new, some tried and true - for developing your skill as a dynamic and creative trainer.

This book will not only motivate and inspire you to be a more effective trainer, but help you to enjoy your day even more!