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***Speaking with Presence:
Public Speaking for
Emerging Professionals***

With Skye Bennett

19 February 2026

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

SKYE BENNETT



Skye Bennett is a purpose-driven leader with nearly 20 years' experience delivering complex programs across higher education, government, arts and culture, and the not-for-profit sector in Australia and internationally.

She has led major transformation initiatives for organisations including Deakin University, the University of South Australia, Scope Australia, Victorian State Government, the National Disability Insurance Agency, and most recently Independence Australia Group.

Skye is known for her intrapreneurial mindset and her ability to connect people, ideas and purpose. A certified WomanSpeak speaker and former Toastmaster, she is passionate about storytelling and creating inclusive, engaging spaces that support thoughtful conversation, shared learning, and meaningful connection.



Speaking with
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What we will cover:

Finding your authentic voice

Speaking with presence:
Managing energy, body language,
voice, pacing & connecting with
your audience

Practical tools you can use

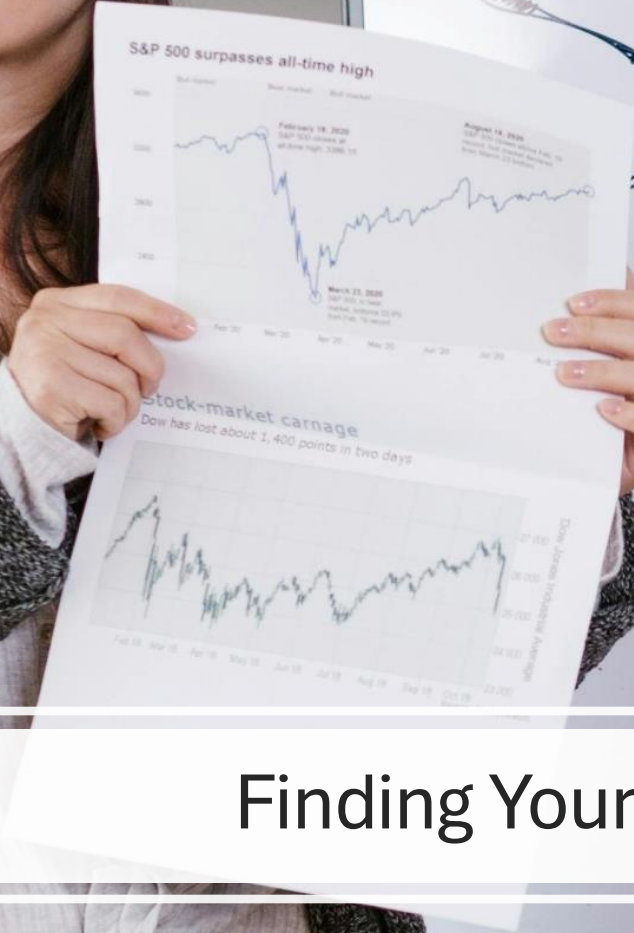
Questions



How comfortable do you feel with public speaking or presenting?



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Finding Your Authentic Voice




Most people feel nervous about public speaking



What gets in the way
for you?



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When someone allows fear and self-doubt to keep them from taking the public stage and speaking from that place, the impact can be catastrophic: we miss out on a whole world of brilliance, insight and intelligence that could positively shape our world. We miss out on having the kind of leaders that our world is hungry for.

- KC Baker



Individual Activity:

When do you feel most comfortable speaking?

Who are you with?

What's happening in that moment that helps?



Speaking with Presence

Resources & Further Reading

Toastmasters International: [Toastmasters International –Home](#)

Public Speaking Tips: [Toastmasters International -Public Speaking Tips](#)

WomanSpeak: [WomanSpeak | Speak Your Truth. Change the World](#)

Storytelling for Change: [Storytelling for Change](#) (free course through Acumen Academy)

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