



# WRITE OUT LOUD

## PERMISSION TO PRESENT BADLY

### OVERVIEW

*What do you think would happen if you gave people permission to speak very badly?*

And let's make that even more confusing, and compelling. What about if, for every "error" or presentation fault committed, the audience clapped wildly?

The driver behind **Permission to Present Badly** is to make it OK to be less than perfect. It acknowledges and exaggerates common presentation faux-pas, making "failure" fun.

If we escalate our faults to a ludicrous level in a safe way, it takes their sting away. They're reduced in size, not half so serious, and they become manageable.

The game relieves its players of the double burden: having to present their own content and simultaneously, deliver it well. It frees them to focus on delivery in a supported, non-threatening way.

There are two versions of **Permission to Present Badly**, (plus four more suggestions), included in this package along with seven printables – a list of 30 speaking faults and six text pieces: 3 fiction and 3 non-fiction.

#### Especially for US teachers

This activity aligns with the standards identified below.

English Language Arts (ELA)  
Speaking and Listening (SL)

**SL 4** Presentation of  
Knowledge and Ideas

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

# PERMISSION TO PRESENT BADLY

## WHO FOR?

### Game suitability

Middle school students and upwards. I have also used it very successfully with adults. It's an excellent activity to break down anxiety and create bonds while having fun.

### Group size

The minimum number is around 5 to 8 people. The maximum number of players in a session is around 10 or 12. If your group is larger do not worry as it's great for audiences and those not playing this time around can play on the next. Middle school students and upwards. I have also used it very successfully with adults. It's an excellent icebreaker.

## WHAT'S NEEDED?

### List of materials/persons needed to play

- Stop watch
- Faults - select which you want to focus on from those provided. Print and cut them out if you wish to play the Mystery Faults version.
- Text - select and print which text(s) you want to use from the 6 available.
  - Alice in Wonderland extract*
  - Huckleberry Finn extract*
  - Little Red Cap - a version of Little Red Riding Hood.*
  - Google Services - a news item*
  - Bad Language - a BBC news item*
  - NASCAR driver - a news item*
- Container for the Mystery Faults version.

# PERMISSION TO PRESENT BADLY

## ≡ METHOD ≡

### How to play - the teacher led version

Decide which fault(s) you want to work with eg. Speaking too fast, not making eye contact ...

Select a text to work with and print it out.

Explain the premise – that we are going to have fun doing the very best of the very worst that we can.

Use a spiel to get into the spirit of the game.

Example:

*"Ladies and Gentlemen - today we are privileged to have with us the very best of the very worst speech presenters in all of history! Yes, they have raised {insert faults you want to work with eg. speaking too fast or mumbling} to high art. And they are here to share their skills with us.*

*Please put your hands together for {insert name of person} who will begin with a dazzling demonstration of {insert fault eg. speaking too fast!}."*

Lead the clapping as they come to the front and hand over the text that they're to use.

Set your stop watch for 30 seconds once they've begun. Then when the time is up announce a contender for the title of best whatever the fault is eg. too fast speaker.

## **'Bad Language' at Live 8 trigger complaints to the BBC Monday, July 4, 2005**

The BBC, who broadcast the Live 8 event throughout Saturday and Sunday, has received hundreds of complaints regarding "swearing outbursts".

Madonna and Snoop Dogg are among those who used "bad language" before the 9:00PM watershed.

Following last year's Super Bowl, where U.S. broadcasting networks were criticised for not forecasting Janet Jackson's bodily exposure, the BBC pledged to incorporate a time delay of several seconds in certain live broadcasts in order to provide a level of censorship to potentially violent/unsuitable scenes.

The Live 8 event, however, was broadcast live.

The BBC, said a spokesperson, had received "just under" 400 complaints regarding the use of language in its coverage.

"Millions of people enjoyed our 12 hours of live broadcasting. We are sorry if any offence was caused.", she added.

The stars accused of swearing before the watershed include Snoop

Dogg, Madonna, Johnny Borrell (Razorlight) and Billie-Joe

Armstrong (Green Day).

Previous complaints received by the BBC range from 240 complaints made as a result of the new 3D weather map, to 47,000 in the build up to the broadcast of "Jerry Springer - The Opera."

**Source:** [http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/%27Bad\\_language%27\\_at\\_Live\\_8\\_concerts\\_trigger\\_complaints\\_to\\_the\\_BBC](http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/%27Bad_language%27_at_Live_8_concerts_trigger_complaints_to_the_BBC)

Once upon a time there was a sweet little girl. Everyone who saw her liked her, but most of all her grandmother, who did not know what to give the child next. Once she gave her a little cap made of red velvet. Because it suited her so well, and she wanted to wear it all the time, she came to be known as Little Red Cap.

One day her mother said to her, "Come Little Red Cap. Here is a piece of cake and a bottle of wine. Take them to your grandmother. She is sick and weak, and they will do her well. Mind your manners and give her my greetings. Behave yourself on the way, and do not leave the path, or you might fall down and break the glass, and then there will be nothing for your sick grandmother."

Little Red Cap promised to obey her mother. The grandmother lived out in the woods, a half hour from the village. When Little Red Cap entered the woods a wolf came up to her. She did not know what a wicked animal he was, and was not afraid of him.

"Good day to you, Little Red Cap."

"Thank you, wolf."

"Where are you going so early, Little Red Cap?" "To grandmother's."

"And what are you carrying under your apron?"

"Grandmother is sick and weak, and I am taking her some cake and wine. We baked yesterday, and they should give her strength." "Little Red Cap, just where does your grandmother live?"

"Her house is a good quarter hour from here in the woods, under the three large oak trees. There's a hedge of hazel bushes there.

You must know the place," said Little Red Cap.

The wolf thought to himself, "Now there is a tasty bite for me. Just how are you going to catch her?" Then he said, "Listen, Little Red Cap, haven't you seen the beautiful flowers that are blossoming in the woods? Why don't you go and take a look? And I don't believe you can hear how beautifully the birds are singing. You are walking along as though you were on your way to school in the village. It is very beautiful in the woods."

Little Red Cap opened her eyes and saw the sunlight breaking through the trees and how the ground was covered with beautiful flowers. She thought, "If I take a bouquet to grandmother, she will be very pleased. Anyway, it is still early, and I'll be home on time." And she ran off into the woods looking for flowers. Each time she picked one she thought that she could see an even more beautiful one a little way off, and she ran after it, going further and further into the woods. But the wolf ran straight to the grandmother's house and knocked on the door.

"Who's there?"

"Little Red Cap. I'm bringing you some cake and wine. Open the door for me."

"Just press the latch," called out the grandmother. "I'm too weak to get up."

The wolf pressed the latch, and the door opened. He stepped inside, went straight to the grandmother's bed, and ate her up.

Then he took her clothes, put them on, and put her cap on his head. He got into her bed and pulled the curtains shut.

Little Red Cap had run after flowers, and did not continue on her way to grandmother's until she had gathered all that she could carry. When she arrived, she found, to her surprise, that the door was open. She walked into the parlor, and everything looked so strange that she thought, "Oh, my God, why am I so afraid? I usually like it at grandmother's." Then she went to the bed and pulled back the curtains. Grandmother was lying there with her cap pulled down over her face and looking very strange.

"Oh, grandmother, what big ears you have!"

"All the better to hear you with."

"Oh, grandmother, what big eyes you have!"

"All the better to see you with."

"Oh, grandmother, what big hands you have!"

"All the better to grab you with!"

"Oh, grandmother, what a horribly big mouth you have!"

“All the better to eat you with!” And with that he jumped out of bed, jumped on top of poor Little Red Cap, and ate her up. As soon as the wolf had finished this tasty bite, he climbed back into bed, fell asleep, and began to snore very loudly.

A huntsman was just passing by. He thought it strange that the old woman was snoring so loudly, so he decided to take a look. He stepped inside, and in the bed there lay the wolf that he had been

hunting for such a long time. “He has eaten the grandmother, but perhaps she still can be saved. I won’t shoot him,” thought the huntsman. So he took a pair of scissors and cut open his belly.

He had cut only a few strokes when he saw the red cap shining through. He cut a little more, and the girl jumped out and cried, “Oh, I was so frightened! It was so dark inside the wolf’s body!”

And then the grandmother came out alive as well. Then Little Red Cap fetched some large heavy stones. They filled the wolf’s body with them, and when he woke up and tried to run away, the stones were so heavy that he fell down dead.

The three of them were happy. The huntsman took the wolf’s pelt.

The grandmother ate the cake and drank the wine that Little Red

Cap had brought. And Little Red Cap thought to herself, “As long as I live, I will never leave the path and run off into the woods by myself if mother tells me not to.”

Little Red Cap is a version of the story Little Red Riding Hood.

**Source:** <http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0333.html>

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (The Brothers Grimm)