

January, 1994 Florida

More on Public Speaking

There are some more things to pass on about the reports we are doing here. First, you must make sure the audience gives their full attention to the speaker. How discouraging to look at a bunch of yawning people or people staring out the window. But it is a two way thing; the speaker must hold the attention of the audience and not be boring. They must speak in such a way that people will be interested in what is being said. Don't be intimidated to have passion.

One other thing that Yoneq said to be sure and let everyone else know: when we stand up to speak we act as if we are sharing to a group — as if we have been asked to speak to an organization, a church group, a neighborhood organization, gay rally, or whatever. We address the group, "Good morning. I am glad you have asked me to come here today to speak on ... or I will be speaking about ..."

You then explain where you are from and about our Freepaper and that you will be talking about such and such an article. All of this will be the introduction before your speech. Then afterwards you open the meeting for questions. Yoneq and Ha-Emeq are really good at this. Yoneq said make sure the speakers are put on the spot. Ask questions like, "What did you mean by...? Are you saying that...? Would you please explain what you meant by that statement?" and "How do I get in touch with the community?"

If one day we really do speak to groups, there will be questions and some may not be so easy to answer. So we must be prepared. Not only should our youth be doing this, but adults also. This is good for those that do not speak very often. We have seen an increase here. Some who were at first unable to go 7 1/2 minutes now go 10 minutes. But it was also pointed out (especially to those who seem to be long winded) that is good to try to stay within the time limit. If you are a speaker somewhere you may be asked to only speak for a limited time so it is good practice for us.