

We want you to succeed as an ImprovPlus Facilitator.

For that reason we've included this "cheat sheet" of Facilitator Tips. We've developed them over almost a decade of facilitating Improv and Communication Trainings.

Here are some tips to help support and encourage you in your role as Facilitator.

1. You set the tone. Participants will take their cues from you. If you are bored and uninterested so they will be.
2. You don't have to know all the answers! You will get questions, sometimes random questions, that you don't know the answer to. That's okay! Here are some ways to handle those questions
 - a. Return the question – "Why is that important to you?" "Help me understand your thought process around that question"
 - b. Crowdsource – throw the question to the other participants. Ask what their opinion/experience is. Perhaps they have a great tip or best practice!
3. Establish expectations. This can be everything from using phones to bio breaks. Work with the group at the beginning to set some boundaries. How do you want them to ask questions – wait until the end or speak up as you go? What do you expect from them as far as participation and engagement? Again – you set the tone!
4. Always have an extra game or two (or three or whatever) in your back pocket. Some games won't take as much time as you think they will. Sometimes a group won't take to a game like you thought they would. Sometimes you get thrown a curve ball and told to fill another 30 minutes. Whatever the reason, it's always good to have another game ready to go. Need some games – make sure you check out the ImprovPlus Database!
5. Has markers, will travel. Develop your own Facilitators kit – mine includes dry erase markers, a bell, a wireless speaker and a paper clips.
6. Establish a 'Parking Lot' – this is a popular Facilitator's technique. It enables you to acknowledge a concern or topic without getting pulled off topic. If someone raises a questions or concern that you sense might pull you away from where you need to – parking lot it. Write it down on a post it or on a dry erase board. Participant will feel heard.

House Rules

Our House Rules are meant to help frame the mindset and approach by both Participants and Facilitators. We suggest writing these down for everyone to see through-out the training. Introduce them during the opening. Ask everyone to agree to play by these “rules.”

If and when someone shows up and isn't playing by the rules you can give them a gentle reminder that these are the rules they have agreed to.

These are derived from but by no means exclusive to Improv. We think they make pretty good guidelines for just about any exchange.

Be Present

No distractions. No phones. No outside business or drama.

Make your Partner Look Excellent

Show up for each other. Do your best to support the others in the room. Through your attention, your intention and your

Be Curious, not Critical

Lean into discomfort. Be willing to learn new tactics and strategies. Be curious about your own resistance – don't judge it. Be curious about others in the room – not critical. Everyone is there to learn something new. And everyone will learn something new about themselves or their fellow participants.