

Passive

Unable to get information unless the speaker gives it and powerless to change the way things are going, audiences feel basically inactive and uninvolved. The by-products are: Lowered physical energy level and a lessened ability or motivation to stay with you and your topic.

Disenfranchised

Audience membership puts us in a receiving mode when we have been quite accustomed to running our lives and being the teller or activator. This makes us feel that we've lost our turf. It's hard to sit back and just let someone else take over.

Anonymous

You, as the speaker, are instantly visible. You are listed in the program or, at the least, are introduced. We the audience may also feel distinguished or at least competent but know that to you, the speaker, we're only a sea of faces. Anonymous listeners. One amorphous bunch, rather than the individuals we pride ourselves on being.

Competitive

"Let's see your stuff!" It's typical of us, when we feel even some of the above, that we would also feel competitive with the person that put us in those states. "Who are *you* to tell me? What do you know that I don't already know?" We become not only an audience but a jury.

Put Upon

Often, presentations are either gratuitous, useful for the teller, or foisted upon an audience because "this is good for you." Audiences are not in charge of either the subject or the length and manner of presentation. This can create resentment, especially if the speaker isn't impressive.

Manipulated

Since most presentations, large or small, cast the speaker as the champion of a cause, the vendor of an idea, or someone who wants the audience to do, think, or agree with something, audiences have a natural tendency to see themselves as being manipulated. They see the speaker as "doing something to them." Not a wholesome, open-minded state.