**Subject: How to sound smart in your TEDx Talk | Will Stephen | TEDxNewYork**

Hear that? That's nothing. Which is what I, as a speaker at today's conference, have for you all. I have nothing. Nada. Zip. Zilch. Zippo. Nothing smart. Nothing inspirational. Nothing even remotely researched at all. **I have absolutely nothing to say whatsoever. And yet, through my manner of speaking, I will make it seem like I do (1)**. Like what I am saying is brilliant. And maybe, just maybe, you will feel like you've learned something. **Now, I'm going to get started with the opening. I'm going to make a lot of hand gestures. I'm going to do this with my right hand, I'm going to do this with my left. I'm going to adjust my glasses.(2)** And then I'm going to ask you all a question. By a show of hands, how many of you all have been asked a question before? (Laughter) Okay, great, I'm seeing some hands. And again, I have nothing here. Now, I'm gonna react to that and act like I'm telling you a personal anecdote. Something to break the tension. Something to endear myself a little bit. Something kind of embarrassing. And you guys are going to make an "aw" sound. It's true. It really happened. (Laughter) And now I'm going to bring it to a broader point. I'm going to really beckon. I'm going to make it intellectual. I'm going to bring it to this man right here. Now, what this man did was important, I'm sure. (Laughter) **But I, for one, have no idea who he is[3**. I simply googled image the word "Scientist."(3) (Laughter) And now you see, I'd like it to seem like I'm making points, building an argument, inspiring you to change your life, when in reality, this is just me... buying... time... Now, if you don't believe me, let's take a look at the numbers. This is a real thing that's happening right now. The number of talks that I'm giving is one. Interesting facts imparted thus far in said talk, well, that's going to be a zero. **My height in inches is 70.5. Note the .5 there. 2x6 equals 12. And then interestingly enough 6x2 also equals 12. That's math. 352 is a three-digit number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and then almost immediately following that we get 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Now, to add more filler here, I'm going to give you a couple more number to consider, uh ... 18, 237, 5,601, 2.6 million, 4, 4, 24, Staggering!(4)** (Laughter) These are real numbers, all of them. **And to follow that up, let's take a look at some graphs(5)**. Now, if you take a look at this pie chart, what you're going to see is that the majority far exceeds the minority. Everybody see that? Cool, isn't it? And let's take a look at this bar graph, 'cause it shows similarly irrelevant data. Now, I'm doing this because I'd like to make it seem like I've done my homework. **If you were, say, watching this on YouTube with the sound off, you might think, "Ah, okay. This guy knows what he's talking about."(6)** But I don't. I'm floundering, panicking. I've got nothing. I'm a total and utter phony. But you know what? I was offered a TED Talk. And dammit, I'm gonna see it through. (Laughter) Now, if you take a look behind me, these are just words paired with vaguely thought-provoking stock photos. I'm going to point at them like I'm making use both of my time as well as your time. But in reality, I don't know what half of them mean. **And now, as these continue, I'm just going to start saying gibberish.(7)** Wagga wah, gabba gabba. Turkey, mouth and a mouth. Chip, trip, my dog skip. Rip it and dip it, Richard. I'm an itty-bitty baby bopper. And I'm hungry in my tum tum. Brad Pitt, Uma Thurman. Names, things. Words, words and more things. And see? It feels like it might make sense, doesn't it? Like maybe, just maybe, I'm building to some sort of satisfying conclusion, I mean, I'm gesticulating as though I am. I'm pacing, I'm growing in intensity, I'm taking off my glasses, which by the way, are just frames. (Laughter) **I wore them to look smart, even though my vision is perfect.(8)** **And now I'm going to slow things down a little bit. I'm going to change the tone.(9)** I'm going to make it seem like I'm building to a moment. And what if I was? (Laughter) Amazing, isn't it? What can we do? Life's a roller coaster. You know, if there's one thing you'd take away from my talk, I'd like you to think about what you heard at the beginning, and I'd like you to think about what you hear now. **Because it was nothing and it's still nothing, think about that.(10)** Or don't, that's fine. And now I'm going to stop talking. Thank you. (Applause)

—Allaka Rohith Kumar (23CH30003)

—Vinit Agrawal (23CH30035)  
—Naini Suhas

### **Multiple-Choice Questions**

1. **What is the speaker's primary goal in giving the TEDx talk?**A) To share groundbreaking research  
   B) To inspire the audience with a personal story  
   **C) To appear knowledgeable and confident despite having no content**D) To promote a new product or service
2. **How does the speaker use body language to engage the audience?**A) By standing still and using minimal gestures  
   **B) By making exaggerated hand gestures and adjusting his glasses**C) By pacing back and forth across the stage  
   D) By maintaining eye contact with individual audience members
3. **What is the significance of the speaker's comment about the scientist in the image?**A) The scientist is a renowned expert in the field  
   B) The scientist is a personal hero of the speaker  
   **C) The speaker has no idea who the scientist is, but uses the image to appear knowledgeable**D) The scientist is a colleague of the speaker
4. **What method does the speaker use to emphasize the absurdity of his content?** A) Incorporating complex jargon and technical language  
    **B) Using exaggerated examples and hyperbole** C) Presenting detailed statistics and facts  
    D) Engaging in serious discussions with experts
5. **What is the purpose of the speaker's use of numbers and graphs in the presentation?**A) A) To provide concrete evidence supporting his claims  
   B) To create a sense of urgency and importance in the talk  
   **C) To give the impression of thorough research and preparation**D) To illustrate the complexity of the topics he is discussing
6. **What is the speaker's attitude towards the audience's perception of him?  
   A) He wants the audience to see him as an expert and authority**B) He wants the audience to see him as relatable and authentic  
   C) He wants the audience to see him as confident and charismatic  
   D) He is indifferent to the audience's perception of him
7. **What is the speaker's ultimate message or takeaway from the presentation?**A) The importance of hard work and dedication  
   B) The value of creativity and innovation  
   **C) The danger of pretending to be something you're not**D) The power of persuasion and manipulation
8. **What is the significance of the speaker's comment about his glasses?**A) He needs them to see the audience  
   B) He wears them to make a fashion statement  
   **C) He wears them to appear more intelligent and credible**D) He wears them to correct his vision
9. **How does the speaker's tone and language change throughout the presentation?**A) It becomes increasingly formal and serious  
   **B) It becomes more conversational and humorous**C) It remains consistent and professional throughout  
   D) It becomes more aggressive and confrontational
10. **What underlying message does the speaker convey about the effectiveness of his presentation style?** A) It is highly effective in conveying important information  
     **B) It relies on superficial tactics rather than genuine insight** C) It is outdated and no longer resonates with modern audiences  
     D) It demonstrates the importance of thorough research