

## Session 2

A few quick notes to start:

We invite you to put the name and pronouns that you'd like us to use for you today in your Zoom name.

This is going to be a hands-on and interactive workshop! We will be doing exercises to choose a topic and start creating a talk. Be prepared to brainstorm and then to discuss with your peers in small breakout rooms.

Also, you can use the toilet at any time, and get up and move around whenever you want to.

### Quick introductions

Let's do a round of quick introductions from us, for those of you who didn't meet us last week.

### Twitter

We would love if you tweet about our workshop today with the hashtag #WPDiversity, and you can use our twitter handles... And also you can follow us!

### Personal Note

I gave a personal note at the start of last week. Not all of you heard it, and for those of you who did, I wanted to remind everyone, especially the parts about your own self-care.

This is personal and difficult to talk about, but I think it's important.

I'm a white woman in Canada, but also, with being a bit neurodivergent in a few ways, I tend to be socially awkward. While I try my best to be aware of my privileges, and am

continuously learning and always striving to do better, sometimes there are gaps in my understanding and I may say things that upset others without intending to.

If I mess up, I want to do what I can to make it right. If you're open to it, I'd like to solve it together at the time or later. However, I don't expect you to spend your bandwidth on me if you don't have the energy. If you need to leave the call, or take a break for a bit, I understand.

I want you to know I will do everything I can to help make this as safe as possible of a space for you. My highest priority is that you have an amazing experience at this workshop, and that you leave it feeling like this was a really great way to spend your time.

## Topics

Last week, we narrowed down to a topic to use to practise for our workshop. Some of you may have changed yours since then. I'd love to hear from everyone: Write your topic in the chat, if you have one, or write where you're at with it.

It's ok if you don't have one. You can just watch, and if you come up with one part-way through, jump in.

Even if you don't feel like your topic is "perfect", it's ok. We are just using these to practise the tools to develop talks.

## 3. Writing the Pitch

### In this section

- Refining your topic
- The Proposal aka "Pitch"
- Coming Up With a Great Title
- Writing Exercise
- Present Titles and Pitches (optional)

## Refining Topic

Generally speaking, a shallow introduction to many things is not as interesting as an in-depth introduction to one thing.

So let's refine your topic to make it more specific. Even if you already have a very specific topic in mind, let's do this exercise anyway. It's always useful to try.

To further refine your topic, we are going to apply "Who, What, Why, How, When, Where". For example: Who is this block extension for? What does the block extension do? Why was it created? How does it work? When would you use it? Where would you use it?

1. Who
2. What
3. Why
4. How
5. When
6. Where

I will give you 5 minutes to answer these questions.

However far along you are with that is fine. Just use what you have.

From this list, can you refine your topic? Is there something more specific on which you'd like to give the talk? I will give you 2 minutes to polish your topic.

## Writing The Proposal aka "Pitch"

Whatever your motivations for speaking, you first need to get selected to speak, and for that you need to create a proposal or "pitch" (we will use the terms interchangeably) that gets your talk selected. Also, since your proposal defines the scope of your talk, it can be a good early step in the overall process of developing your talk.

- What makes a great pitch? Here is an example of a good one. It's based on some slightly old technology, but it's still a good example.
  - Responsify All The Things – In our new web multiverse, it's more important than ever to make your valuable content available to all users,

regardless of how they access your site. In this talk, we'll cover how Responsive Web Design came about, the latest RWD news and trends, and some basic (and not so basic) techniques you can use to make your next WordPress theme a *responsive* one. Intended for developers and designers who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty with a little code.

- This is a good length, tells you what talk will cover, and who it's aimed at.
- In some cases you might also want to say what people will walk away with from this talk.
- Beware of too-clever titles. The title should stand on its own without a blurb.
  - **Example of a bad one:** CSS Dreams and Elephants

Generally, your talk proposal and the introduction of your outline will be quite similar. A good introduction should have all the things a good pitch would have. However, in a pitch you might want to spice it up a bit. Ultimately, both the introduction and pitch should contain similar content.

For a pitch, you want to tailor the tone of your writing and vocabulary to the specific audience and event that you are applying to. This is very important!

Some ideas for how you may tailor your pitch for specific audiences and events:

- The tone may be different. A business crowd may be formal. A meetup may be more casual. So customize the tone of your pitch to your specific audience.
- At WordPress we tend to be pretty casual.
- You might want to use different vocabulary depending on the audience.
- You may want to stress different "hooks" or "points of interest" depending on the audience or event.

**There are also 6 important points to take note of when writing both your outline and your pitch**

We were given permission by We Are All Awesome to use this material.

1. **Direct the proposal to the attendees, not the curators.** Many conferences use your talk proposal as the description of the talk in their programme. With that in mind, your target reader is the conference attendee who is reading the programme. Tell the reader why your talk will interest them, and what they will learn. The curators want to put together a great conference with compelling talks for their attendees. Your talk will be part of the package they offer, so sell it! Make sure you research the event. Are there different tracks? Who is the audience? Lots of developers? Mostly for users? Design-heavy? Different WordCamps have different personalities. Are they short on really technical presentations? Light on talks for beginners? Try to fill a need (such as podcasting).

2. **Be specific about the focus your talk will have.** As we mentioned before, generally speaking, a shallow introduction to many things is not as interesting as an in-depth introduction to one thing. If you discuss the broader topic, do so only to set the context for what you will focus on.

3. **One strategy: Pose the question your talk will answer.** Often, talks answer questions that start with “how”, “why”, “when” and so on. An easy trick is to directly ask these questions in your proposal, leaving the reader wondering the answer.

4. **Make your point as succinctly as you can.** If your first draft requires more than two paragraphs to get to the point of your topic, edit to narrow things down. Take out any words that can be removed without changing the meaning. You may have a lot of competition, so try to make a good impression quickly. If your proposal is too much work to read or understand, it might get skipped during the selection process.

5. **Use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.** This can be a touchy subject. While African American Vernacular English is a valid dialect in the US, academia has not caught up to the acceptance of AAVE. Because of this, it's important to use dictionary-precise spelling, grammar and punctuation. Speaking requires a lot of thoughtful preparation, and curators may mistakenly interpret your proposal as sloppy

and careless. You should use the vernacular that you are most comfortable with, however you risk being rejected outright for not using "proper" English.

6. **Have your proposal reviewed by someone with experience.** Just as you might ask a friend to critique a draft of your CV, an essay, or the talk itself, ask someone (ideally a writer, speaker, or curator) to review your talk proposal. They will catch typos, as well as verify whether your proposal explains the scope of your talk, and explains its benefit to your audience.

## Coming Up With a Great Title

"All great talks have a great title!"

Good talk titles generally follow these guidelines:

- Try to think of something catchy but explanatory
- Beware of too-clever titles
- Create a title that can stand on its own without a blurb (for example don't use something like "CSS and Elephants"). You want something that people will understand when they scan the conference talk titles. Even in meetups, many people read the title and choose attending based on that alone, without reading the blurb.



### Writing Exercise

Everyone will have 10 minutes now to try drafting a talk proposal for the idea you brainstormed earlier and the title. There will be a chance to read the title and pitch to the group after, if you wish.

*Do writing exercise*



## Present Titles and Pitches

Now anyone who wishes will have the opportunity to share their title and pitch with their breakout groups of 4.

You will have 3 minutes each for your mini presentation and getting feedback. There are no expectations. This is not a chance to practice being great; this is just an opportunity to practice being in front of people. You may request receiving feedback if you wish.

Ask if someone wants feedback before you offer it. Be sure to say something you liked about it before suggesting an improvement.

I will give you 12 minutes for this, 3 minutes each.

### Present to Big Group

Let's hear a few of the titles and pitches in the big group. You will have 2 minutes or less for your mini presentation. There are no expectations. This is not a chance to practice being great; this is just an opportunity to practice being in front of people. You may request receiving feedback if you wish. There will be time for 1 minute of the feedback. If the person does want feedback, be sure to say something you liked about it before suggesting an improvement.

## 4. Creating Your Talk

### In this section

- Writing the outline
- Coming up with a great title
- Present title and outline (optional)

## Writing The Outline

You've done the Who What Why How When Where questions about your topic. With these ideas in mind, you will be creating an outline for your talk. Don't worry, we'll talk you through the outline.

As a basic structure, a talk should have 3 parts: an introduction, body, and conclusion. Let's start with the introduction.

### Introduction

What makes a great introduction?

- Clearly state what your talk is about
- What are you going to cover?
- Why does it matter?
- Pique interest! – What is your hook? Open with impact!
- Who is it aimed at?
- Be Succinct! – Use economy of words

Tips for your introduction:

- **Don't apologize or insult yourself.** Apologizing in your opening calls attention to any flaws you may be concerned about and reduces the positive engagement of your audience.
- **Don't spend 10 minutes talking about your resume.** Many new speakers begin by talking about their hobbies, family, or work history. The trouble is, before you've begun talking about your content, audiences aren't emotionally invested in you yet. Spending excessive amounts of time convincing them why they should pay attention to you is far less effective than opening with the engaging content they're here to see.
- **Start with a relevant story.** Talk about *why* you're giving this talk today. For example, tell a story about a problem you encountered, to lead into a talk about how to solve similar problems.
- **Summarize what you'll cover** or what attendees will walk away with. This gives a high-level context of where each part of your talk falls into the larger topic.
- **Ask a friend to introduce you.** Better than introducing yourself is asking someone close to you to introduce you, to give you praise and assign credibility.

## **Body**

Now we are going to create an outline of your talk.

In a moment, you will be writing down some main topics or story headings you'd like to cover. What is the main point you want to get across? What are some examples, or supporting points that go to illustrate your main point? What would be a logical flow?

You can use the "Who, What, Why, How, When, Where" questions to refine your topic to create your talk sections.

Another tip is people think in 3s, so if you can break your talk down to 3 supporting points that could be helpful.

## **Conclusion**

For the conclusion, you will want to:

- Summarize what has been discussed.
- Review the main takeaway points.
- The "So What?" question - why does your topic matter?
- Give further resources that may be useful to attendees.
- Be sure to give the audience your contact information. An email and/or Twitter handle is good.

## **Refining Your Title**

Once you have your outline, you might want to further refine the title for your talk to be more specific!

As a reminder, you still want to:

- Try to think of something catchy but explanatory
- Beware of too-clever titles
- Create a title that can stand on its own without a blurb (for example don't use something like "CSS and Elephants")



## Exercise: Outline and Title

Spend 10 minutes quickly drafting up the body of your talk and writing down some possible talk titles refinements. Don't overthink this. Just write quickly off the top of your head.

If you have extra time you can work on introduction and conclusion as well, but the most important thing right now is the body. The rest will come from that.



## Small groups Present Outline

Now we are going to get together in groups of 4 to share your title and outline! You will have up to 4 minutes each for your presentation and feedback.

This time go in alphabetical order of your first names again. I am going to put you into the breakout rooms now.



## Present Outline

Now anyone who wishes will have the opportunity to share their title and outline with the group. You will have two minutes or less for your mini presentation. There are no expectations. This is not a chance to practice being great; this is just an opportunity to practice being in front of people. You may request receiving feedback if you wish. Put up your hand if you wish to share with the group.

# 5. Becoming a Better Speaker

## In This Section

- Practicing Speaking

- Do's and Don'ts
- Handling Nerves
- Handling Q&A
- Getting post-talk feedback

## Practicing Speaking

The most important thing you can do to become a better speaker is to practice! The more you speak - in front of a mirror, in front of friends, or in front of a room full of people - the more comfortable and the better you will become. You can even give your talk to a friend online.

You can also video record yourself. Take notes on behaviors you exhibit while speaking, then practice reducing them.

When you practice, time yourself. You might be surprised by how long or short your talk is when you are speaking out loud, and it is important to know how long your talk is going to take.

If you're looking for opportunities to practice speaking, you might see if there is a Toastmasters in your area. They will provide you with many opportunities to speak in front of a supportive group of people, and give you tips and tools for improvement.

You can also practice at smaller meetups. WordPress meetups are good for practicing for WordCamps. If you want to practice for WordPress meetups, you could find smaller related meetups who would be interested in hearing about your WordPress topic.

The Genesis Livecast is also a great opportunity to practise speaking!

## Becoming a Better Speaker Do's and Don'ts

No matter how much public speaking experience you have, there is always room for improvement. Here are some do's and don'ts to help you improve.

**Do:**

- **Speak slowly.** Many speakers speak too fast, but audiences almost never complain that someone went too slowly. Take pauses in between sentences. It may feel strange to you, but will seem very natural to the audience.
- **Have water available and drink it.** Most events will provide water for the speaker, but make sure you have water on hand just in case. When you find yourself going too fast, taking a drink of water is a great way to slow yourself down. It might feel like it takes forever to take a drink, but the audience doesn't mind.
- **Vary your voice.** This gets easier with practice. You don't want to speak in a monotone, so make sure you have some inflection in your tone.
- **Look into your camera.** It will make people feel like you are making eye contact with them!
- **If you're standing, keep your hands above your waist.** If you do this, you will find yourself gesturing naturally.
- **Remember to breathe.**
- **Practice without notes.** Even if you'd like to have your notes with you to make you less nervous, practicing your talk without notes helps you map your content to your thought process. You already know your subject matter, so avoid trying to memorize your notes and script verbatim. This will help your talk sound more natural and for you to feel better about deviating from your script.

#### Don't:

- **Don't drink too much coffee.** You're already jittery from nerves, so you don't need a coffee buzz on top of it!
- **Don't turn away from the audience.** Both in person and online, if you need to turn around for any reason -- like if your slides are projected behind you and you want to point something out, make sure that you keep your face pointed toward the audience as you point.
- **Reduce filler words like "um."** You might not even notice you are doing this so ask a friend to point it out in rehearsal or record yourself and take notes. To help yourself reduce the filler words habit, take a small breath or a sip of water instead.
- **Don't read your slides or notes directly.** If you must, make sure you look up from your notes, and ad lib at least a little bit.

## Handling Nerves

Everyone gets nervous about public speaking. It is a part of being human. In fact, it's hard-wired: for our cavemen ancestors, any time more than 5 pairs of eyes were looking

at them at once, that meant that in all likelihood they were about to die. We still react that way when we get up in front of a group of people and see them all watching us.

Keep in mind that your audience is on your side – they want to see you succeed, and all of them would be nervous if they were in your shoes. In fact, it's okay to admit that you are nervous – people will be sympathetic.

Here are some things you can do to help soothe your nerves:

- **Practice!** It really does get easier with practice. The more you practice the better you will know your material and the more confident you will be.
- **Sleep.** If you are well-rested, you will do a better job. Resist the urge to network or socialize too much the night before.
- **Exercise.** The best way to get rid of nervous energy is to burn it off. Physiologically, the reason you get nervous is so that you will have the energy and adrenaline to fight or flee from your predator. If you are able to, running or getting some other form of exercise is a great way to burn off that nervous energy and convince your body that the danger is over.
- **Breathe.** When we get nervous, we tend to take shallow breaths into our chest. This is a part of the body's preparation for fight or flight, and it actually deprives the brain of some of its important oxygen. Take long slow breaths into your belly, and this will help calm you and clear your mind. Be sure to take breaths:
  1. Before getting on stage
  2. When you're on stage before you start talking, and
  3. Every so often during the talk
- **Dress comfortably.** Being body-conscious never helps, so make sure you are comfortable in whatever you are wearing.
- **Take time for yourself before you speak.** This helps you compose yourself and get mentally prepared. You could go for a walk, listen to some favorite music, go over your notes, or just take some really deep breaths.
- **Know the stage.** If you're in person, try to find a time before you give your talk to see the room where you will be speaking. If you're online, do a full tech rehearsal – lights on, microphone on, and try to use the same software that you'll be presenting on, like Zoom
- **Use your own devices.** At home we are using our own devices. When you are speaking in person, if you have your own laptop, clicker, etc., you will be more comfortable with your equipment. If you won't be using your own devices, come

early to ensure you're able to get your notes onto the system and that you can use the system with ease.

- **Adopt a persona.** This doesn't mean don't be yourself, it just means be the Speaker version of yourself. For instance, if you tend to talk with your hands when you are nervous, embrace that and make it a part of your speaker persona. You will behave differently when you are in front of a big group of people: go with that and don't fight it.
- **Be excited.** Nervousness could actually be excitement. There's no chemical difference between feeling excited and anxious, it's the same physical state, so if you think you're nervous, try turning it around and remind yourself that you're just excited.

## Handling Q&A

Many talks have an audience questions-and-answer session at the end.

### Timing

Ask the organizers in advance what the expectations are. Try timing your talk when you rehearse it and make sure you've left room for an adequate amount of Q&A time, if that's something you'll be expected to do.

How much time should you allow for Q&A? If the organizers haven't specified this for you, it usually depends on the length of your whole session. In general, 10-20 minutes is adequate. For example, if your whole presentation takes up a 45-minute slot you might want to allow 35 minutes for the presentation and 10 minutes for questions.

### Interspersing Q&A

Some people prefer to take questions throughout their talk rather than holding them until the end. Let your audience know up front what you prefer, bearing in mind that if your audience will be using a microphone due to the size of the room or the fact that your talk is being recorded, you'll need to give the room technician a heads-up about your Q&A plans so they're ready with the audience microphone as needed.

## **Don't Forget to Ask for Questions!**

If you're saving the Q&A until the end, don't forget to do it once you finish your talk! To remind yourself, you can add a slide at the end of your talk saying thanks and asking for questions.

## **Repeat the Question Back to the Audience**

Unless the audience is mic'd, repeat each question before answering. Your audience and anyone later watching the video (if your talk is being recorded) will thank you.

Even if the audience and recording can hear the questions, sometimes it's nice to repeat the question for everyone to hear it again, or to phrase the question more clearly.

Some people are especially nervous about the Q&A because difficult situations could arise. Here are some tips to make it easier.

## **Tricky Questions**

Often speakers who are brand new to public speaking, and even ones that aren't, are nervous about getting asked a question that they feel they don't know the answer to or that has a tricky answer.

There are a few ways to handle that situation:

- Remember to repeat the question back to the audience. This buys you a little bit of time to think about how to handle the question.
- Don't be afraid to admit that you don't know. The audience will have far more respect for you for admitting that you don't know than if you try to fudge it and fail.
- You can say something like: "That's a good question. I'm not sure about the answer, but let me look into that for you – could you send me a tweet or email after the session and we'll stay in touch?"
- You can throw it to the audience with something like: "Good question! I'm actually not sure, does anyone here have any ideas?"
- Throw the question to a friend or colleague in the audience: "Good question! My colleague Jane actually knows a lot about that – hey Jane, do you have any ideas on this one?" You can also talk to your colleagues/friends beforehand and make sure they're OK with being put on the spot like this.

## **The Smarty-Pants**

Handling the “smarty-pants” in the audience who thinks they know better than you and goes on and on and on is a big fear. It doesn't happen often, but if it does, one thing to keep in mind is that in these sorts of situations, other people in the audience are thinking about how much of an idiot the know-it-all is, not about how you're handling it. Don't be afraid to cut someone off if they're monopolizing the Q&A or derailing it. It's possible to do this politely but firmly: "I think we're going to have to move on now because time is running out and I really want to get a few more questions in."

## **Unrelated Questions**

Sometimes people will ask questions that have little or nothing to do with your talk and answering the question will derail the conversation. One way of handling this is to say, "That's a good question, but it's outside of the scope of what we're talking about. I'd be happy to answer it for you privately after."

## **Silence**

What if you finish your talk, throw open the floor to the audience and there are no questions? That's totally OK! There aren't always questions.

- You can have one or two people you know in the audience ready to ask a question, or even chime in with a different angle. For example, if you're a developer, have a designer ready with an observation on your topic from that point of view.
- You can also ask and answer your own questions. For example: "Something I didn't go into in depth in the talk, but that you might be wondering about, is..." or "A question I've had come up before is..."
- You can ask the audience a question. For example: "Something I didn't go into in depth in the talk, but that you might be wondering about, is..." or "A question I've had come up before is..."

## **Errors**

Don't be afraid to correct errors after your talk. If someone points out an error – either during the Q&A or later – go ahead and update your presentation online and include the correction if you give the same talk again. Be sure to verify that the "correction" is actually accurate before doing this!

## Contact & Slides

Once the Q&A is over, let people know how to connect with you once you're done and where to find your slides. Give out your Twitter handle and/or email. You can also include this information on your final slide so that it's up on the screen behind you while you take questions.

## Getting post-talk feedback

We often forget this part of the process, but getting feedback after your talk is really important if you ever want to get better at public speaking.

You want to get feedback about both your content and your speaking style. You want feedback about whether your content was interesting, well organized, easy to follow, etc. This is true whether you plan to ever give this same talk again or not because a lot of the knowledge gained can be generalized. You also want to know about your speaking technique: How was the pace, volume, approachability, etc.

Where can you get feedback? Ask conference organizers if they send out a survey, and whether you can see your own feedback. Ask people you know who were at your talk for feedback. The more specific your questions the better the feedback you will get. (Don't ask "What did you think," ask "Was there something you thought could have been better? Could you hear me? Did I speak too quickly or too slowly?" etc.)

Keep in mind that asking people for feedback directly will be different from asking organizers for the feedback that was sent to them. People tend to be softer and kinder when speaking to you, as opposed to when they think that their feedback is only going to organizers.

## 6. Creating Great Slides

### In This Section

- Good slide decks
- More tips

### Good Slide Decks

Let's first start with a Public Service Announcement. You do **not** need slides with every talk. Some talks can stand on their own.

Slides can be your friend and your enemy – so, don't rely on them completely. Something to ask yourself: if the slide projector were to break down, could you give your talk without them?

That said, when used correctly, slides are amazing and can bring a lot to your talk.

Used in the right way, slides emphasize and help you get your points across.

Let's look at some tips for creating good slide decks.

Give your slides a theme. It could be that you illustrate all your points with cat memes, or that they all use the same background and typography. Whatever it is, having a visually unified deck makes all the difference.

Many speakers end up with a look to their slides that they stick with from presentation to presentation. This is great and makes their talks stand out and feel part of a cohesive set. It may not be the route you want to go, but it's something to consider.

Don't use a default slideshow theme, like the templates that come with Keynote or Powerpoint. We've all seen them a thousand times, and they look generic and boring.

Don't write out what you are going to be saying. This can be a flexible rule for useful, important quotes but nobody likes someone reading lines from a slide.

Make your text size readable. Think of the person sitting at the back of the room. Try to use 24 point font and larger when you can.

Use code sparingly. It's hard to sit through pages and pages of code on a screen.

Include a slide at the end of your deck to thank your audience. You can also use a closing slide to remind you to do your Q&A.

Enhance the mood of your talk with slides. Use them to add humor and to help get your point across.

Check the copyright on your images. If you're using a Creative Commons graphic, remember to give proper attribution to its creator.

Consider sketching something original, creating your own images, or using your own photography. Make it personal and unique.

Slides don't need images. You can just have words.

Check your contrast on a range of screens to make sure it'll be legible.

Also consider your choice of color. You can check color contrast using an online tool to be sure it'll be easily readable - you just plug in your background and foreground color codes and the tool will tell you if it's in the acceptable range.

Take care when selecting fonts. Don't use a fancy font that's cute but unreadable – and don't use too many different fonts together.

Make sure you're creating your slides for the right screen size. Try to find out in advance what aspect ratio the projector will have. Stay away from edges of the screen to be safe, keeping key information out of those areas.

Now let's look at a few examples from real slide decks.

This is a good example of a slide that sets the mood of the whole presentation. The deck supports the presentation and acts not just as useful information, but as a backdrop, to help create a cohesive talk.

This is a deck that stands on its own, either with or without the verbal part of the presentation. It carries a theme throughout the slides and delivers the message with clarity. It also demonstrates a strong personality, something you shouldn't shy away from with your deck.

This deck has a strong sense of design. It clearly delivers the message of an expansive subject area. Slides are used to break down this complexity, and it's all done with a clear vision and a deck that stands on its own, apart from the talk. You'll find a collection of more tips on creating great slides - and other resources - at <http://getspeak.in>. There are links to contrast calculators and examples of inspirational slide decks that you can explore at your leisure.

## Wrap-Up Day 2

### Poll

Please take a moment now to answer this poll question.

### Workshop Material

If anyone would like a copy of the workshop content and slides, go to:

<https://diversein.tech/workshopjune2021/>

### Feedback

Please go to this link now to fill out the feedback form.

*Click to show form*

<https://forms.gle/DCoJyip2RXvUx2S67>

We'd like feedback on the workshop itself.

We'd like to know if you are planning on applying to speak at some point at events, meetups, WordCamps, and if so, which ones.

A question about your thoughts on us recording these workshops in the future, a place to let us know if you'd like to become a workshop mentor, and also if you didn't fill it in last week, letting us know if you'd like to be part of the speaker placement program, which I'll tell you about in a moment.

## Sign Up

We have a few opportunities for you to start public speaking or get further mentorship.

**David** or **Tarsha**, can you please speak about the Genesis and WP Engine opportunities?

**Jill:** In WordPress, meetups and WordCamps around the world are open to having new voices. I would suggest that you start by looking at the meetups close to you.

[meetup.com/pro/wordpress/#groups](https://www.meetup.com/pro/wordpress/#groups)

Also, we are about to launch a new program to continue giving people mentorship after taking this workshop! In the next few weeks, we will be starting up a WordPress Speaker Placement Slack channel where you'll be able to chat with each other and with meetup and WordCamp organizers. If you would like to get on that Slack, please fill out the post-workshop feedback form.

## Become a Mentor

One of the best ways to really get this material is to mentor. We are always looking for mentors in our monthly WordPress workshops for people from underrepresented groups in WordPress from all over the world. You would be doing things like helping to answer people's questions and give feedback on their talks. Let me know if you'd like to help out by indicating so on the feedback form.

## Tell Us Your Speaking Story

David and I would love to keep in touch and find out how things go for you. Did you speak? Did it go well? Did something come out of it – did you start organizing or leading something? Did you get a job? Did you start getting more involved with the community? Were you asked to speak again? etc. Please let us know!

## **Thank you**

I want to give a big thank you to Tarsha, David, and the WP Engine team who invited us to give these workshops and has been the main driving force behind them.

And thank you to Allie who has been helping me behind the scenes and is such a fantastic co-trainer!

## **Stay in touch**

Please stay in touch with us!