Lead Boldly with GRACE™



A 5-Step Format for Advocacy and Empowerment
Presented by Tom Hobbs, the Man In The Hat & Marcy Renken
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What Is the GRACE Format™?

GRACE is a simple, powerful tool to help you advocate for yourself or others, especially when navigating systems that are hard to understand. Whether in a meeting, a doctor's office, or a community event—these five steps help you lead boldly and speak with impact.

The 5 Steps of GRACE

G – Gift

Start with a thoughtful gift. That might be your smile, your gratitude, your kindness, or even a treat or compliment. A gift helps soften the moment and create openness.

R – Relate (Story)

Tell a short, true story. Stories are remembered far more than facts. Share a quick story that shows what's really going on.

A – Align (Why)

Explain why this matters to you—and to them. Align your goal with theirs. 'Why does this affect everyone in the room?' Use shared purpose to create connection.

C – Connect (Humor)

Use humor appropriately. A small laugh can bring down walls. It shows you're human and helps others relax—even in tense moments.

E – Empower (Voice)

Let your voice lead. This is where you say what needs to happen next. You don't need to have all the answers—you just need to be clear and confident in your request.

Access These Resources for Free

Copy this link https://showingourstrengths.com/tash or Use the QR code below to access:
- This Handout (Word and PDF format, fully accessible)
- Audio Version of this handout, narrated for screen-free learning
- Accessible, Watermarked Edition of "Your Advocacy Guidebook" — a deeper resource based on the GRACE Format™

https://showingourstrengths.com/tash

OR Code to https://showingourstrengths.com/tash

Scan to access all resources from this session, including handouts, audio, and guidebook downloads.

✅ You are welcome to share these resources with anyone in the TASH community.

Sawubona — We See You.

In Zulu, *Sawubona* means "I see you."
In advocacy, that's where everything begins.

We see your effort.
We see your heart.
We see your commitment to the people you support.
Whether you're a parent, therapist, educator, or community leader — your presence here matters.

A Reminder From Today's Session

Advocacy isn't about perfection.
It's about connection.
It's about slowing down, listening deeply,
and speaking up with clarity and purpose.

The GRACE Format™ helps you lead boldly and speak with impact.

Why We Gave You a Life Saver Today

When someone is overwhelmed by systems, appointments, or fear,
it can feel like slipping underwater.

In those moments, one encouraging voice becomes a Life Saver.

A Life Saver says:
"You matter."
"I hear you."
"I see you."
"I'm here with you."

Today is your reminder that **your voice carries power**—
and someone in your world needs exactly what you learned today.

Your Next Steps

- Download your GRACE™ handouts and accessible materials
- Access the full audio and resource bundle
- Learn how to bring GRACE™ training to your team or organization
- Stay connected for future advocacy tools and support

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