

Mediums and Themes Chart

When there is a deficit of presentations, providing structure may help increase the engagement level. Some Ponderers may feel intimidated by the immense quality of presentations, believing they themselves can't produce something as good as what "the stars" create. Others may feel aimless when told "present whatever you want." When you confine the scope of what's permitted, people who feel small no longer feel like they have to fill a gymnasium. By shrinking the room, they may feel like their voice is worthy to be heard (as if it wasn't before.)

Mediums and themes can help create structure where the Spirit of the Pondering is not self-evident.

Additionally, providing structure makes it easier to invite guests. Best practices marketing strategies include "MAYA" - Most Advanced Yet Acceptable. Your product or service should be novel, yet recognizable. Today, most people have never gathered together in person to discuss higher things, yet the concept is recognized. Thus, by appealing to preconceived schemas, it becomes easier for guests to envision what they are entering into, and thus the invitation is easier to accept.

Use these as guardrails, not monorails. Pub Leaders should share the Medium and Theme of the Month with their Ponderers. Ponderers should then bring a piece of art that either falls under the medium, the theme, or ideally combines both.

Ex: The Stone and the Giant's medium of the month is music and its theme is hope. Anthony plays the Spotify song, "Walt Grace's Submarine Test" and discusses uncertainty and stubbornness. (Medium). Dan reads a poem he wrote about fatherhood, and how he went from hopeless to hope-filled. (Theme). Melissa plays "Because He Lives" on Spotify, and talks about this hymn always gave her hope growing up. (Medium and Theme).

(Example with explanation below)

Medium

Wk 1:

Personal Artifact - Ponderers bring something of personal significance.

Wk 2:

Poetry - Ponderers share a poem they found or wrote that resonates with them.

Wk 3:

Music - Ponderers bring or play a song.

Wk 4: Photography - Ponderers should take a photo in advance OR create a slideshow of past photos.

Wk 5: Powerpoint Night!

Wk 6: Film or video snippet - Ponderers can pull up on Youtube a portion of a movie, anime, or TV show they want to talk about with others

Wk 7: Short Writing - An excerpt from an anthology, magazine article, bible study reflection, or a page or two from a book

Wk 8: No Medium

Wk 9: Quote(s)

Wk 10: Ancient art (from at least 200 years ago)

Theme

Wk 1:

Roots + Childhood -

Wk 2:

Difficulty and insurmountable challenges

Wk 3:

Righteousness.

Wk 4: Beauty in the overlooked.

Wk 5: A Hill I will die on. Or, something you need to know.

Wk 6: Elaborations from past weeks. By this point, your Ponderers may want to expand on a previous concept. This is a great opportunity to do so.

Wk 7: My life and the wider world

Wk 8: No Theme

Wk 9: Self-Improvement

Wk 10: Bettering our immediate community