

# 5 TIPS

## FOR A FESTIVE HOLIDAY

Want to enliven the holidays?  
Look no further than these tips  
from DCPA Director of Education  
Patrick Elkins-Zeglarski.



1

### RAISE A TOAST!

Put the cheer in “Cheers!” with a tip from a [public speaking coach](#):

- Take a calming breath, align your posture and connect to your message
- Lead with gratitude
- Be authentic and speak from the heart
- Gesture with intent but don’t exaggerate
- Strive for short and sweet with this template:

*Greeting > why you wanted to speak > why you will remember this moment > closure*

2

### RAISE A CAMERA!

Holiday photos are as traditional as eggnog. Everyone can participate!

**Create a holiday-themed online photo**

- Wear a thematic costume
- Coordinate everyone bringing a matching holiday prop
- Encourage inspired backgrounds

**Create an in-person tableau**

- Reenact a past holiday photo
- Illustrate a family holiday letter
- Recreate a holiday story using only household items

3

### RAISE THE FUN FACTOR THROUGH IMPROV!

Choose a merry improv game to entertain the whole group — young and old!

**Heads and Tails**

To play, assemble players in a circle or establish an order for your online group. Then, Player 1 states a word. Player 2 states a word whose first letter is the same as the last letter of Player 1’s word (Rudolf – fireplace – eggnog – garland). Continue.

**Name Six**

This circle-based game challenges one player to name six items in a given category in 15 seconds. The player continues until they fail a category.

Suggested categories include:

- Name 6 holiday traditions
- Name 6 of Santa’s reindeer
- Name 6 common New Year’s resolutions
- Name 6 winter sports

4

### RAISE A HUNT!

Create a holiday scavenger hunt

Provide a list of items to find in your home, neighborhood or virtual background. If you meet in person, get everyone outside by searching for outdoor holiday décor or roam the house for decorations based on color, size, or type (i.e. angel, star, wreath, etc.). If you’re online, ask participants in advance to incorporate objects from the list into their virtual backgrounds. The first to locate all items wins!

5

### RAISE A BOOK!

Much like our popular [Book Stars](#) literacy program, narrate your favorite holiday book! To boost your vocal impact, consider these tips:

- Be well hydrated
- Warm up those vocal chords by humming into your hands
- Take a moment to breathe before you begin
- Embody the characters through the power of your voice

Our favorites include *A Christmas Carol*, *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *A Child’s Christmas in Wales*, *little tree*, *A Treasury of African-American Christmas Stories* and *Noche Buena: Hispanic American Christmas Stories*.



