



Understanding Your "Why" in Advocacy

THE WHYS AND HOWS

About Amanda Tuite

TRAINER/ CONSULTANT

- Enthusiastic advocate for communication accessibility and disability inclusion
- Loves to connect people to resources & solutions
- Outgoing extrovert

What is your
reason WHY you
came here today?

**What have you done
in terms of
networking here at
the conference?**



Basic definition of networking:

The process of interacting with other humans to achieve a goal, exchange information, or develop social or professional relationships.

Can you guess how many
connections we can
create with 200 people
during the Empowerment
Weekend?

19,900 connections

Formula: $n*(n-1)/2$

So for 200 people at the conference, the total number of one-on-one connections would be
 $200 * (200-1) = 19,900$ unique connections.

Let's Start with the BIG Picture:

The Key Issues that the Deaf community faces:

Social Justice

Employment

Mental Health

Transition after High School

Medical Care

Social Services

Access to Information

Access to Communication

Top Reasons Why We Show Up Today

Access to Employment

Access to Sign Language

To Improve Deaf Education

Support for Deaf Senior Citizens

Access to Resources

Closed Captions in Public Spaces

**ASL as a foreign language credit for
post - secondary education**

Deaf School Study

Accessibility in hospital settings

**“Maybe stories are just
data with a soul.”**

- Dr. Brené Brown

What's YOUR story?

Group Activity:

Each person will get a card.

Find your match!



**We invite you to share your story,
with the intention of making it heartfelt.**

15 minutes

1. Assign someone in the group to be the notetaker.
2. Assign someone to be the Team Lead to facilitate turns. Each person has 3 minutes.
3. Be mindful of access to communication. Everyone is included.

Q1: What is your personal experience of being denied access?

Q2: Which experience had the greatest impact on you or others that made you decide it was time to say “Enough is enough!” and step up to make your voice heard?

Tell your Story

Why You Showed Up Today

(Keep your stories related to any of these topics:)

- **Access to Employment**
- **Access to Sign Language**
- **Improve Deaf Education**
- **Support for Deaf Senior Citizens**
- **Access to Resources**
- **Closed Captions in Public Spaces**
- **ASL as a foreign language credit for post - secondary education**
- **Deaf School Study**
- **Accessibility in hospital settings**

Let's take up space.

role playing time

Two **Key** Things to Remember



Do both have a shared understanding of the words that were mentioned during the conversation



Is this person in a position where they can impact change?

**Always know who
you are dealing with.**

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**What's
stopping you
from taking
the first step to
advocate for
the deaf
community?**



Self-Reflection Exercise

**List three
values
you bring in as
an advocate**

**List three
reasons that is
stopping you
from selling
yourself.**

**What would you do
if you weren't afraid?**

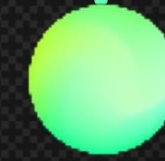
Show everyone what you have to offer:

- Advice
- Innovation
- Mission
- Resources

Tips to overcome your fears:



Ask for help



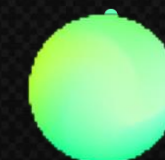
Don't face it alone



One step at a time



**"Has it been proven
to be true?"**



**Each step gives you
courage.**

**“If you can, help others.
If you cannot do that,
at least do not harm them”**

-Dalai Lama

Access to Communication during Legislative Advocacy is Possible



Ask for ASL or
captioning access for
Legislative Sessions

For Virtual Meetings -
Use VRS through Zoom

or use Captioning Apps

A friendly
reminder to
practice
good
listening
skills.



“When you meet people,
show real appreciation,
then genuine curiosity.”

Martha Beck

**“Do the thing
you think you cannot do.”**

Eleanor Roosevelt



Thank you!

THE END
BUT YOU'RE JUST GETTING STARTED...



Let's get in touch: Amanda@accessvine.co

The Keys to a Great Conversation

by Celeste Headlee

Don't
Multi-Task



Don't
Pontificate



Ask open
ended
questions



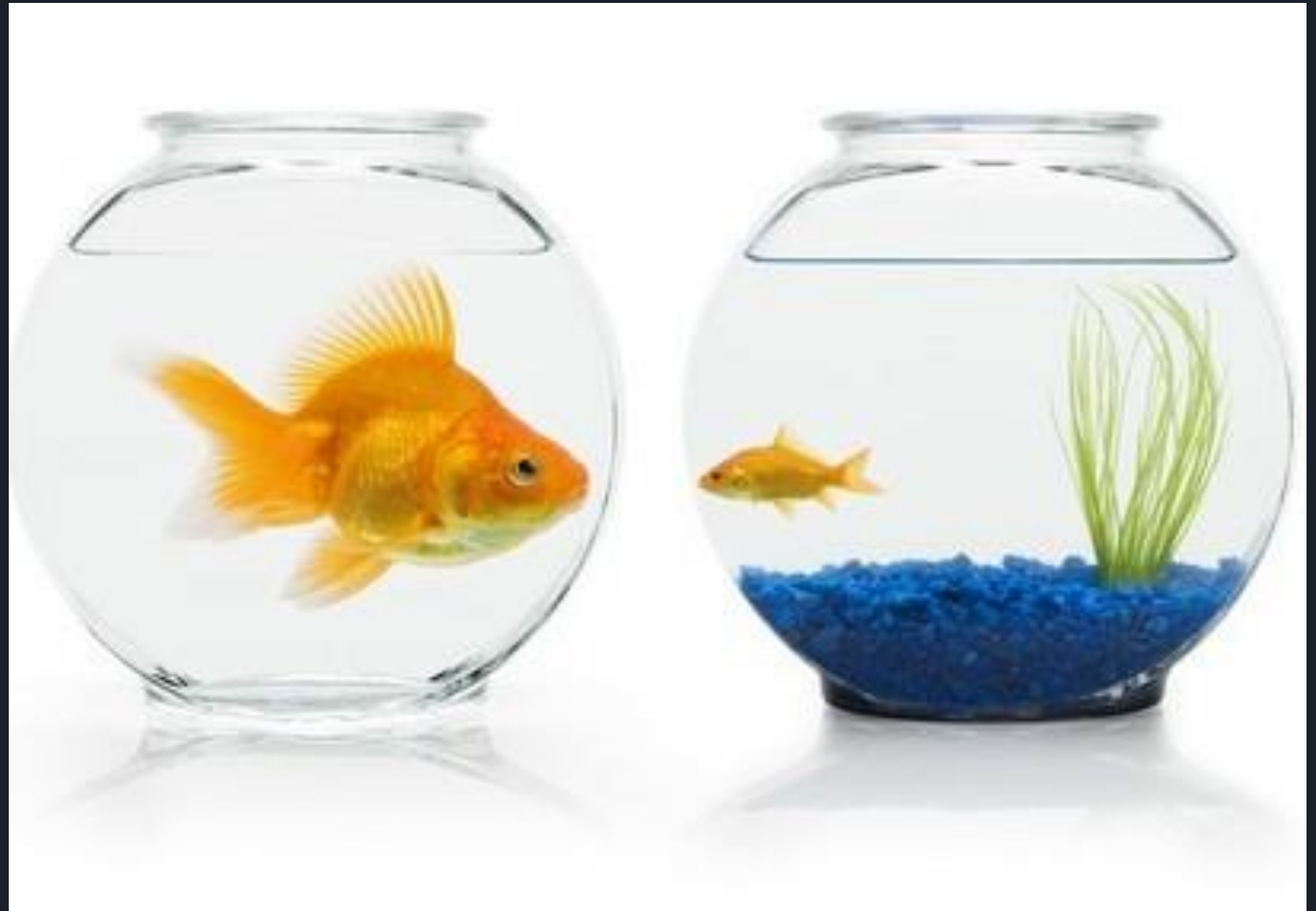
Go with
the flow



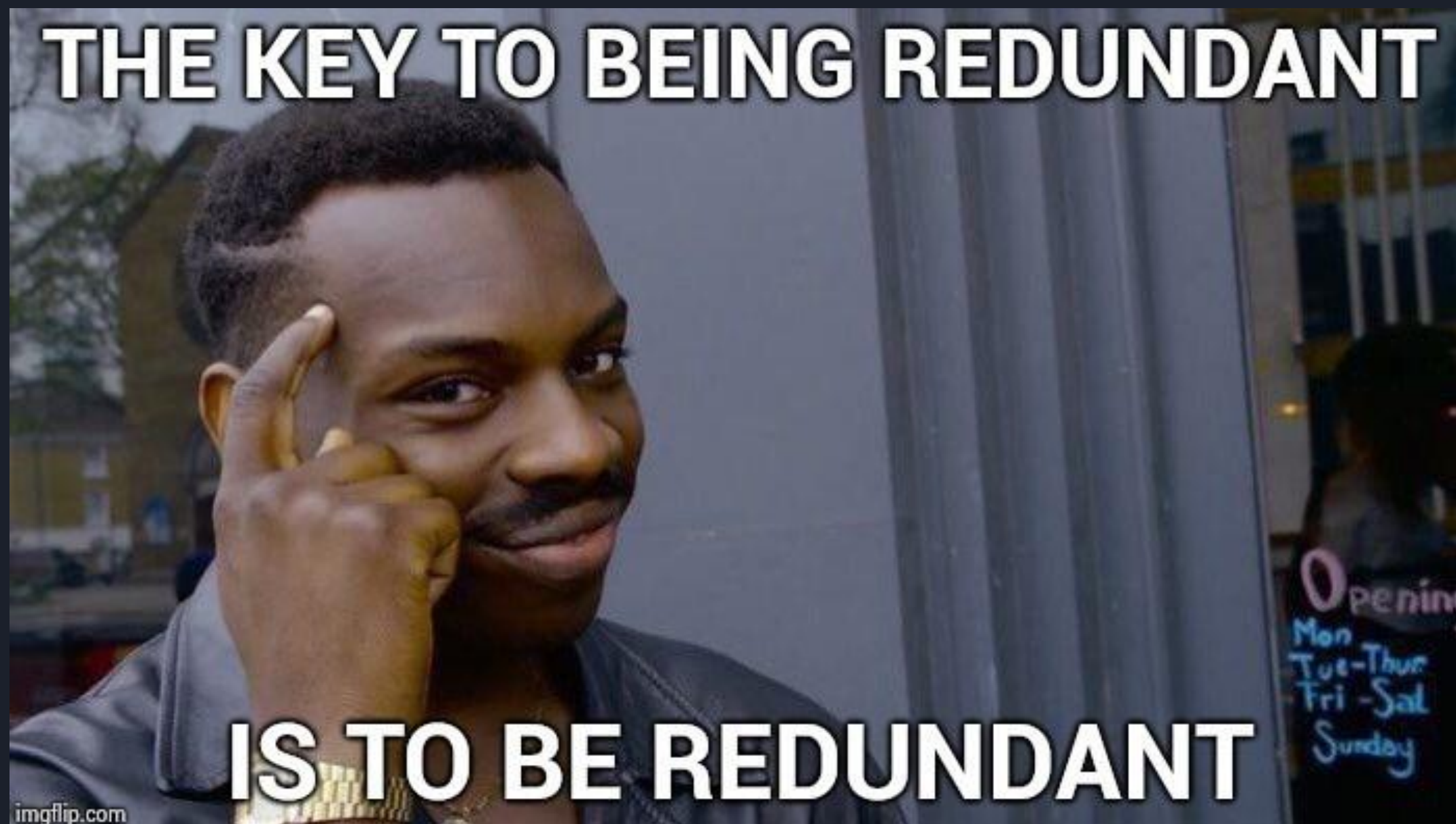
If you don't
know, say
you don't
know.



Don't equate
your
experience
with their
experience.



Don't
repeat
yourself



Stay out of
the weeds.



Listen



Be Brief

