# Developing Winning Messages and Better Advocacy Material







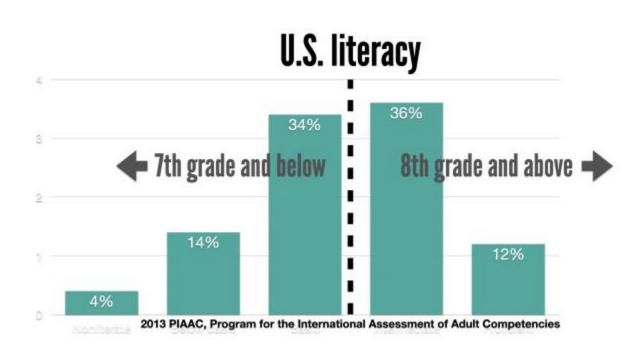
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**Rule #1: Know Your Audience** 

Insiders and Super Informed
 Informed-But Not About Your
 Issue
 Average Voters/Citizens











# Rule #2: Know Your Opposition







# Rule #3: Don't Make Your Audience Do Homework











# **Voters Support Candidates Who:**

- Shares Their Values
- Cares About People Like Them
- Trust to Represent their Values and Interests



## **Advocates Need:**

- **O**Know How It Impacts Them
- Understand Your Solution/Opposition
- Believe That Their Advocacy Will Make a Difference
- **□**Have a Simple Path To Take Action



Advocacy Messaging ≻Clear ➢Concise ➤Compelling ➤\*Bonus Points if It Touches the Responsive Chord (Emotional)





Messaging to Voters ➢Clear ≻Concise Demonstrating **Shared Values** 





# What's your story?

# <u>Stories</u> Beginning (Problem) Middle (Solution) End (Resolution) 1-2 Sentences





#### WHAT IS YOUR STORY?

Biographic detail or unique attribute that helps fill in the gaps beyond partisanship



Clear and Concise and Contrasting



10 seconds before they vote Told in different ways in different formats to different audiences





For a few pennies more, we can make sure that <u>all</u> of Henrico's children have a brighter future.

Grandma shouldn't have to wait on Walmart to get tax relief.



#### Turning Your Message Into Communication Materials: Best Practices







# HEADLINES



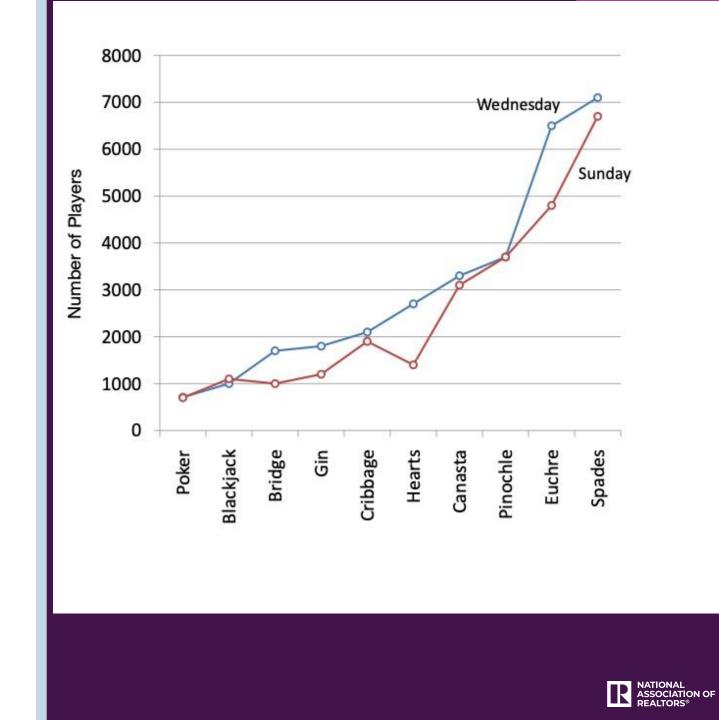


 Do The Visuals/Graphics Reinforce the Message
 Is the Headline Clear
 Chunking Information





#### Compelling Graph(ic)s





### Citation Make Things More Believable<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>I can really, really say anything and readers will think it is true





**Poroofing Does Matter** 

Is the Candidates Name Spelled Right
Is the Town/County/State Spelled Right
Is the social media links Accurate
Is the election day(s) correct-are they listed?
Does the QR code work
Do the images look like the area
Do the images reinforce the message
Is the information accurate/defensible
Any controversial people/images in the visuals



# THANK YOU.





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