



Um's & Err's Counter

Time allocation: 1 minute

Taking on this role improves observational and listening skills

The purpose of the Um's & Er's Counter (also known as Ah-Counter) is to note any overused words or filler sounds used as a crutch by anyone who speaks during the meeting. Overused words may be inappropriate interjections, such as *and*, *well*, *but*, *so*, and *y'know*. Filler sounds may be *ah*, *um* or *er* etc. Please listen for and point them all out. At the end of the meeting you will give us a short report. It is good to make this report specific and mention names where necessary - not to embarrass individuals, but to make us aware of what we are doing so we can stop (often speakers don't even realise they are doing this!). This will help us grow and make us aware going forward.

As the Ah-Counter you:

- When introduced during the club meeting, explain the role of the Ah-Counter.
- During the meeting take note of the following: overly long pauses, overused words and filler sounds relied upon too often by all speakers. Examples include: *and*, *but*, *so*, *you know*, *ah*, and *um*.
- During the evaluation portion of the meeting, report your observations when called upon.

Near the end of the meeting, you will have 1 minute to report about this role. Your report could cover the benefit of being aware of ums and ers during a speech (or something similar), before identifying who did what (counting umms and errs). Or if you prefer, you can be creative instead and let it be a lesson of alternative words to say, or what to do or use instead of filler words.

Have fun with this role. When you are having fun and relaxing with it, your audience will too...and people tend to learn more when they are relaxed :)