

Here is an example of follow up notes from a session redacted for confidentiality!

Stand-up Session 20th October with *** and Chris Head**

This was a stand-up comedy coaching session where Chris Head provides ***** with detailed feedback on his act, focusing on set structure, incorporating act-outs, and developing a more naturalistic persona. Here's a detailed breakdown of the points discussed in the session:

1. Introduction and Background:

- ***** has been performing stand-up comedy for almost two years, at clubs in *****, ***** and *****, mostly open spots but now getting some paid spots too, but feels he has stagnated and needs direction.
- He initially did well with "crude" material, then tried more "standard" biographical material. But he feels he connects less with the audience when doing more "personal stuff."
- But sometimes the crude is too much for an audience. He has an ***** gig in early December that he wants to do well at.

2. Set Structure and Order:

Chris advises against starting with his "funniest joke", as it's very extreme. It leaves him nowhere to build to and what follows is in danger of being anticlimactic.

- The most important thing at the start is to connect with the audience and establish persona.
- Chris suggests a new order for *****'s existing material:
 - ***** gag (positive opening).
 - *****
 - ***** (with act-out).
 - ***** (biographical information).
 - ***** (crowd work).
 - ***** joke
 - ***** jokes (with act-out)
 - ***** bit (cutting preamble).
 - ***** (introducing the topic instead of as a follow up).
 - ***** (as the closing, the dark joke that was the opener).
- This new sequence aims to have more of a flow and to be less shocking straight out of the gate, allowing the audience to get to know ***** first and for it to build naturally.
- The current opening joke is a "hell of a joke", sometimes it elicits gasps, and is better to end on than open.

3. Act Outs and Situational Comedy:

- ***** is currently not doing any "act outs" (showing situations rather than just telling). Chris suggests converting some material into act outs to add naturalness and open up more joke opportunities.
- **Example 1 (*****):** Instead of just saying *****, he could frame it as a conversation with ***** at a *****.
- **Example 2 (*****):** Instead of directly telling the audience, he could tell the joke to a ***** or ***** at a *****. *Post session note: Upon reflection I suggest you make it a ***** (to maximise the inappropriateness of the comments). The notes continue...*