Cover the Basics:    I am:             Hi, My name is Lena Smith
                We are:         I’m with the United Community Housing Coalition
                We Do:         We organize tenants to fight for better housing
                We want:      We are meeting this Thursday at 7pm in the church at the corner to plan how to get your landlord to fix up his buildings. We’d like you to come.

Here is part of a list of ideas to help in listening and talking to people. It was put together by eight members of a public housing organization in Charlotte, North Carolina.

1) Introduce Yourself
2) Ask if you can come in
3) Talk about something you know they’re interested in.
4) Find something in the home to talk about.
5) Know the subject
6) Know yourself
7) Let them talk- Hear what they have to say.
8) Look at them as you talk
9) Ask questions
10) Don’t try to force them to think your way
11) Listen more than you talk
12) Never cut them off
13) If you don’t know the answer, get back to them
14) Pick your time for making contact

Adapted from: Si Kahn Organizing pp. 116-117, 228.