

Public Speaking Activity

Chapter 9-Beginning and Ending the Speech Writing Introductions and Conclusions

The purpose of this activity is to identify the elements of introductions as well as generate conclusions based on these introductions.

Below are four complete introductions from classroom speeches. Each has at least one flaw that keeps it from fulfilling all the functions of a good introduction. In each case identify the flaw (or flaws) and make specific suggestions for improving the introduction. When you have fixed the introduction, write a complementary conclusion that could be used. You may use a separate sheet or the back of this page.

1. What tiny crystal fortified the coffers of many ancient empires and laid waste to others? What mineral has the power to create and the power to destroy? What is “good as gold” when scarce and “cheap as dirt” when abundant?

The answer to all of these questions is salt, the spice of life. Today I would like to look at the importance of salt in history, at how we spice up our lives with salt today, and at the role salt will probably play in the future.

2. We have so much unused human potential. By improving the use of your time, you can have much more time for social activities. You can use your mental processes more fully, thereby improving your grades. You can also increase your physical stamina and improve your health. We must learn to know our bodies.

3. Every problem has at least two sides. When one side is right, and the other side is wrong, the problem is easy to solve. But what if both sides have merit in their arguments? How do you solve these problems?

Balancing the rights of everyone in an adoption is one of these problems. The parents who give up the child have a right that all the information they disclose be kept confidential, while the adopted child has a right to know about the identity of his or her natural parents.

Today I'd like to explore this problem with you and look at one approach to solving it.