

# Public Speaking Assignment

## Introduction

The purpose of this speech is to give you a brief, initial exposure to speaking in front of an audience in a low-risk situation. To that end, you will be introducing one of your classmates to the rest of the class. This introductory speech should be delivered extemporaneously from brief notes that occupy no more than one side of a single index card or ½ of a folded sheet of paper. You are not to just read your speech from a sheet and you should use as much eye contact as possible.

In preparation for the speech, you will work in groups of three and interview one of the students in your group. You will complete the interview at the end of class and/or after class. While this does not give you a lot of time, it does give you time to prepare your questions for the interviews and allows for longer, more flexible interviews.

In your speech, you will need to provide basic information such as the name of the person you are introducing, his or her home town, academic major, personal interests, hobbies, aspirations, and the like. But the speech need not be a routine recitation of biographical data. You are encouraged to be creative in your interview questions and in your speech.

These are some of the questions you can ask during your interview. Ultimately it is up to you what you want to ask and what you want to include in the introduction.

Who are you introducing?

What is their major?

What reason(s) do they have for taking this class?

Do they have any specific goals for improving your speaking? What are they? (What would they like to learn how to do? What particular problems would they like to overcome?)

What classes in speech and related fields (such as journalism or English composition) have they had here or at other schools?

What kinds of speaking experiences have they had in your classes, jobs, religious organizations, extra-curricular activities, etc.?

When did they give their last speech? What was the topic?

What are their career plans? Will public speaking be important to their career? How so?