

Public Speaking Assignment

Impromptu Speech

The purpose of this speech is to demonstrate your ability to spontaneously develop a topic and present it to the group. The focus of the speech may be informative, persuasive, or entertaining. The available topics for this speech may range from, but are not limited to, topics such as “my family”, “my hometown”, “my best friend”, “my favorite sport”, “my most embarrassing moment”, “my worst class”, “my biggest thrill”, “my biggest complaint”, etc. The speaking order will be assigned randomly and when you are called you will draw your topic and have approximately 3-5 minutes, depending on class size, to gather your thoughts in preparation for this 2 minute speech.

Evaluation will focus on such basic matters as establishing eye contact, avoiding distracting mannerisms, formulating a sharp specific purpose statement, fulfilling the functions of an introduction and conclusion, limiting main points and arranging them properly, and employing connectives effectively. The use of visual aids is not needed for this speech. Grading for the speech will be based on the following questions:

1. Does the speech conform to the kind of speech assigned?
2. Is the speech ready for presentation on the assigned date?
3. Did the speech conform to the 2-3 minute time limit?
4. Did the speech have a clear specific purpose and central idea?
5. Did the speech have an identifiable introduction, body, and conclusion?
6. Did the speech show reasonable directness and competence in delivery?
7. Was the speech free of serious errors in grammar, pronunciation, and word usage?
8. Did the speech fulfill all major functions of a speech introduction and conclusion?
9. Did the speech display clear organization of main points and supporting materials?
10. Did the speech exhibit proficient use of connectives—transitions, internal previews, internal summaries, and signposts?
11. Was the speech delivered skillfully enough so as not to distract attention from the speaker’s message?
12. Did the speech constitute a genuine contribution by the speaker to the knowledge or beliefs of the audience?
13. Did the speech sustain positive interest, feeling, and/or commitment among the audience?
14. Did the speech contain elements of vividness and special interest in the use of language?
15. Was the speech delivered in a fluent, polished manner that strengthens the impact of the speaker’s message