

Public Speaking Assignment

Ceremonial Speech

The purpose of this speech is to demonstrate your ability to develop a topic and present it to the group. The focus of the speech may be to introduce, to present an award, to accept an award, or to commemorate a person or an event. For this speech, you will choose two (2) of the above listed speech topics and add a fictional element. In essence, you will be introducing a fictitious person, giving or receiving a fictitious award, or commemorating a fictitious event such as a wedding, graduation commencement, or memorial service. You may use notes or flash cards, but please try to refrain from reading directly from a script. Be sure to prepare, but also try to keep it fun!

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 C/CR but keep the following questions in mind:

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?