

Description for Special Occasion Speech

Time: 3-5 minutes

The special occasion speech provides students with practice in preparing and delivering a basic public speech. The content of this speech should be a fictional speech of introduction, toast, or eulogy concerning an individual or individuals with whom the audience is familiar. Choose a person to speak about (e.g., a historical figure, a current film or television star, a person in the class), and construct a speech that discusses his or her qualifications or positive personal qualities.

The goal is to learn how to (1) adapt a topic to your audience, (2) use a clear presentational pattern, (3) present an extemporaneous speech, and (4) formulate a key-word outline (which you will turn in to your instructor *before* you give your speech). You must:

- conduct an audience analysis in order to understand the audience's interests
- provide an introduction to gain the audience's attention and a clear, relevant statement of purpose
- use a clear organizational pattern that allows the audience to follow your speech (follow your key-word outline)
- provide closure and leave the audience with information that is interesting

Examples of Topics

- Speech of introduction for the president of the United States
- Toast at the wedding of two well-known television stars
- Eulogy for a famous historical figure

Hints: Remember, this speech can mix factual events with fictional events. Be creative! Make sure that you focus on the interesting aspects of your speech topic. Do not merely provide a list of the events or achievements. Create a vivid and memorable image that will be interesting to the audience.

Outline Worksheet for Special Occasion Speech

Title:

Speaker:

Specific Purpose:

Thesis Statement:

Introduction

I. Attention-getter:

II. Establishment of ethos:

III. Thesis statement:

IV. Preview (each main point):

First . . .

Next . . .

Finally . . .

(Transition)

Body

I. Main idea 1 (narrative/story)

(Transition)

II. Main idea 2 (significance of narrative)

(Transition to conclusion)

Conclusion

I. Summary:

II. Review (each main point):

III. Tie to the introduction:

IV. Creative concluding thought (end with impact):