

Personal Story Speech

The purpose of this assignment is to introduce students to the process of public speaking. One of the first problems beginning speakers face is deciding what to talk about. Sometimes the best thing to talk about is something that you are completely familiar with. For this speech you will tell your audience a real life story of something that happened to you.

What makes a good story: Think of stories that you love to hear. Why are they good stories? Were they funny? Were they relatable? Were they real? What about the characters? The plot?

People love a good story – it doesn't have to be fancy or exotic but it does have to be real. Think of an event you experienced, a trip you took, a challenge you overcame, or an experience that changed your view on life. The story can be as simple as a family trip to the coast or a brush with greatness (running into a famous person). The only boundaries are that the story has to be true and it had to have happened to you. Now you can tell a story about a story – that happened to someone important to you where you tell how you learned about the story... but I will explain that in class.

Procedures:

- Visual aids are Mandatory. Students will be graded on how well the selected visual aid adds to the delivery and content of the presentation.
- Structure is KEY in this presentation. Use an introduction that captures the attention of the audience, has a clear thesis and a preview of main points.
- Be conversational!! Only extemporaneous speaking style is allowed, do NOT read your speech! Students may have note cards to assist them in the delivery – but do NOT read your speech
- Speeches are to be 2 to 4 minutes in length. Due to time constraints you will be given signals so that you can end your speech on time.
- A FULL sentence outline, in the format taught in class, are required and due per the calendar. Supporting paperwork is always due prior to speaking dates, be aware of due dates. (No one will receive a speech time slot without submitting their TYPED outline ON TIME)
- Audience participation is vital to all speeches therefore everyone will be assigned audience evaluation sheets on the days they are not speaking. These sheets must be completed in class and turned in before leaving.
- A rubric is provided to assist students in determining the level of grading they desire. Please refer to the rubric and work accordingly.