

Speech of Self-Introduction

Date Due: 2nd class

Length: 3-4 minutes

Directions: Give an interesting speech that introduces you to the class.

- Its main purpose is to inform us about you, give us some insight into who you are.
- Your speech's main points might describe your personality traits, or some interesting achievements, or some of your interesting opinions, or some of your major interests, or your goals—all of which support your explicit thesis.
- Develop your points using examples, stories, quotations, and/or definitions.
- Remember, the good stuff is always in the details.

Procedure:

- Write your name legibly on the board
- Turn, pronounce your name
- Pause a moment
- Then start with your attention-getter--don't start with "Hello" or "Well," etc.

Structure:

- Introduction (2-4 sentences)
 - Attention getter (1st sentence in introduction)
 - Forecast of your main points (last sentence in introduction)
- Body (2-4 points):
 - Main point
 - Example, anecdote, and/or evidence
 - Main point
 - Example, anecdote, evidence
- Conclusion
 - Brief summary of main points
 - Final thought
 - Say "Thank you" and sit down as we applaud

Delivery: You should deliver this speech **extemporaneously**—i.e., although you have completely written out your speech, you will essentially speak the speech rather than read it. You should write out key phrases or ideas on a 4 x 6 note card (less distracting to your audience than a full sheet of paper).

Practice: You should practice giving your whole speech all the way through without stopping 3-5 times before the day of the speech. It is particularly useful if you can practice your speech at least once or twice in front of someone (a friend, a consultant at the Writing Center).