

1. Speech of Self-Introduction

Date Due: 2nd class, 2/9 (R)

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.
- Each of the speech's main points should describe a personality trait, achievement, opinion, interest, event, or goal—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.
- At the end, say "Thank you" and return to your seat as we applaud.

Structure:

- Introduction: A 2-4 sentence opening
 - o Attention getter
 - o Forecast of your main points
- Body (2-4 points):
 - o Main point
Example, anecdote, evidence
 - o Main point
Example, anecdote, evidence
- Conclusion
 - o Brief summary of main points
 - o Final thought
 - o Say "Thank you"

Delivery: You should deliver this speech extemporaneously—i.e., although you have completely written out your speech (see #2 below), 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).

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