

A Lifetime of Speech Topics

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Finding Topics from Your Life:

(Jot down your own ideas for each project)

#1 - Icebreaker (about you - general)

#2 - Organize Your Speech (broad enough for any topic)

#3 - Get to the Point (inform, persuade, entertain, inspire, be specific)

#4 - How to Say It (select right word, eliminate jargon)

#5 - Your Body Speaks (stance, movement, gestures, facial expressions)

#6 - Vocal Variety (volume, pitch, rate, pauses)

#7 - Research Your Topic (use facts, examples, illustrations you've gathered)

#8 - Get Comfortable with Visual Aids (appropriate for topic, use correctly)

#9 - Persuade with Power (use logic & emotion, persuade audience)

#10 - Inspire Your Audience (appeal to needs & emotions, challenge audience)

Look Around You for Topics:

(Jot down your own ideas)

Your purse/wallet

Personal observations

Magazine/newspaper articles

Locale (Your space, building, city, state, province, country)

World events

Painless Preparation, Practice & Presentation

Preparation:

- Secret trick:_____
- Simple outline (O-123-C)
- Mind mapping your topic
- Use lots of stories and anecdotes
- Write it out in full
- Reduce to index cards

Practice

- Secret tool:_____
- Tape record yourself reading it with *feeling*
- Listen to the “perfect” version
- Edit and re-record if necessary
- Listen to the taped speech regularly
- Review the key words on your index cards
- Practice in “clumps”
- Don’t try to memorize word for word, just remember the concepts

Presentation

- Secret friend:_____
- If you need notes, use them judiciously

Prepared: You will be if you...

- Take your manual to every meeting
- Keep note cards & reference material for each speech in your TM binder

Life Topics

Achievements
Accidents
Adult education
Ambitions
Ancestors
Attitude
Bad habits
Beliefs & Values
Best friends
Burnout
Careers & Jobs
Camping
Caregiving
Causes you believe in
Challenges
Changes seen/experienced
Childhood (yours)
Children
Christmas
Close calls
Close encounters (celebrities, etc)
Courage
Culture
Dating
Decisions
Diets
Education
Embarrassing moments
Entertainment
Entrepreneurship
Exercise
Experiences
Fame
Family
Favorites (flower, music, etc)
First love
Fitness
Friends
Gardening

Genealogy
Goals
Grandchildren
Health
Helping others
Hiking
Hobbies
Home town
Hopes & dreams
How to... (anything)
Immigration (you, parents, etc?)
Insights
Jobs
Keepsakes
Lessons Learned
Marriage
Military service
Mistakes
Parenting
People you've known
Personal growth
Personality
Pets
Philosophy
Raising children
Recognition
Retirement
Running a business
Second thoughts
Special Occasions
Special Interests
Spirituality
Sports
Successes
Traditions
Travel
Volunteering
What motivates you
Where were you when...
Words of Wisdom (for others)