

Choosing Your Speech Topic

Your next speech is coming up and it's time to choose a topic for that speech. Below are some suggestions that may help you select your next topic.

1. Plan Ahead

- Read every speech outline and the objectives in your manual
- Be particularly aware of the framework and the objectives of the next 3-4 speeches
- Consider the type of speech that would be appropriate for those objectives



2. What do you Know?

- WORK - Good, but don't overdo this topic.
- SPORT - Serious aspect - developing skills, attitudes etc.
Humorous aspect - Taking up tennis after 15 years. Exaggeration is OK
- HOBBIES - Instructional or humorous
- INTERESTS - Theatre, literature, chess, dog obedience etc
- TRAVELS - Your experiences or your response to a particular place or circumstance

3. Match The Topic Or Subject To The Framework And Objectives.

- not the other way around - REMEMBER - the framework of a house shapes the cladding
- a narrative or anecdotal speech is more successful in achieving the purpose when rich body language and spoken language is required. (rather than a very serious speech or one with many precise details and statistics.

4. Topics From Other Areas:

- Newspapers, magazines, plays, films, books may contain fictional, biographical, historical facts or ideas.
- Research a topic that interests YOU. Your ENTHUSIASM will be transferred to your audience.
 - i. SOCIAL ISSUES – appeal to your audience to adopt a specific belief or approach
 - ii. INFORMATIVE – iridology, the interpretation of body language – make it interesting
 - iii. (iii) NARRATIVE: – The life story of...
 - iv. (iv) ANECDOTAL – One of, or a series of your own experiences
 - v. (v) INSTRUCTIONAL – The structure of a violin, installing your own security system

How Will You Have These Topics To Hand When You Need Them?

5. Back To [Point 1.](#) (Plan Ahead).

- Cut out newspaper / magazine articles - staple to appropriate speech in your manual. Stegin to research supporting / opposing material.
- Note in margin any appropriate ideas for a particular speech. Make notes about a book or article that has statements / ideas that interest you.
- A speech might evolve from a single thought, statement, news item, experience. Toss it around in your mind. Play "The Devil's Advocate" to your own ideas.
- Three to five points are sufficient for a 5 - 7 minute speech, allowing time for an interesting introduction and a thought provoking conclusion for your speech.

Quick Reference - Sources For Ideas

- Current affairs
- Readers Digest
- Radio Shows
- Funny incidents
- Local Library
- The Internet
- Kids Hobbies
- TV Shows
- Travel / Holidays
- Events – weddings

- Health tips
- Your job
- Biography

- Sport
- Other people's Jobs
- Tell a story – new or old

How To Remember Your Ideas

1. Diary
2. Scrapbook
3. Quotes
4. Cartoons
5. Photos and Pictures