

Impromptu Model Speech

Introduction

Attention Getter
Read Quotation
Thesis
Preview

Body

- I. Assertion
 - a. Argument
 - b. Anecdote

- II. Assertion
 - a. Argument
 - b. Anecdote

- III. Assertion
 - a. Argument
 - b. Anecdote

Steps to Preparing:

1. Thesis
2. Pick a structure
3. Plug into the structure
4. Intro/Attention Getter
5. Conclusion/Soapbox

RULES:

5 minutes to prepare
3-5 minute speech
Deduct 5 points for
every 10 seconds
over or under time

Conclusion

Soapbox
Review
Tie back to Thesis
Tie back to Attention Getter
Clincher (quotation)

Introduction

The introduction may be the most important part of the speech. It makes your first impression to the audience. Starting strong grabs attention and shows your audience that you are in control.

For a five minute speech, the entire introduction should last between one minute and ninety seconds. There are four sections: attention getter, topic reference, thesis, and the preview. By following this formula, introductions can be made both easy and effective.

ATTENTION GETTER- You can use a variety of approaches to the attention getter, but the ultimate goal is to grab attention. Here are a few possibilities to consider:

ANALOGY OR FABLE: This approach involves illuminating the topic by demonstrating how an analogy demonstrates the complexities of a current event. The fable is the same concept, they start with the story, link to the thesis, and then finish the story with the lesson in the conclusion.

MOVIES OR BOOKS: This method allows you to use commonly known books or movies to illuminate the topic. For example, one could argue that the movie *Natural Born Killers* was a satire of America's excessive violence which was horribly misinterpreted with copycat crimes. (don't assume your audience knows the movie or book, but don't take too much time explaining it)

QUOTATION: Find a clever or extremely powerful quotation that illuminates the problem suggested by the question. This attention getter tends to be very short, so you better have enough information to fill your speech. This quotation is obviously different than your topic quotation.

HUMAN EXAMPLE: If you have plenty of information in your speech, you can use a person's life as an example. I favor using the best known person as the attention getter. For example if you have information on Philip of Macedonia, Jim Plunket, William Wallace, and Hitler, I would prefer Hitler was used as the human example.

PERSONAL STORY: Be careful of using this option too much. The story must relate to the quotation and be interesting to all. Please make sure that this is appropriate for class.

GIMMICK: The gimmick is the most risky attention getter in impromptu. It can make you soar like an eagle or struggle like a wounded turkey. This approach involves actively doing something that illuminates the quotation. For example, when you get a quotation that deals with crime, you walk over, take a student's pencil, put it in your pocket and begin your speech about children committing too many crimes.

QUOTATION - After giving your attention getter, you segue into the quotation. Read the quotation word for word, give the author and, and then quickly move into your thesis.

THESIS- The most important part of the speech is the thesis. You explain to your audience what your interpretation of the quotation is. Don't assume that you have the same interpretation as everybody else, because you probably don't. From this point on, the speech is about your thesis not the quotation.

PREVIEW- After giving your thesis, you should list the points you are going to discuss in your speech. Try to make it as natural as possible.

Ex- "In order to understand this quotation, we will look towards the lives of George Washington, Madonna, and Snoopy."

BODY

STRUCTURE- There are many different structures that you may use for your speech. As you become more experienced, you will find that each topic demands its own specific structure. However, those who are beginners should approach most topics with one of the planned structures. Each of these three points become your ASSERTIONS.

PROBLEM/CAUSE/SOLUTION: In this structure, you simply examine a problem relating to the quotation, what caused it, and how we can solve the problems you identify. Remember to find solutions to all of the problems you address. One other hint, be careful to keep the problem and cause separated; they tend to bleed into one another.

PAST/PRESENT/FUTURE: This structure is a basic one that is valuable. The first point focuses on the historical background while the second point examines the current problem. Finally the speech is closed with possible future solutions.

THREE PEOPLE: You take three people from diverse backgrounds and show how their lives prove the quotation to be true or false. This approach can make you look very intelligent, but you must be careful be constantly linking back to the topic.

THREE AREAS: This approach is similar to the three people structure. You look at how the quotation is true in a number of different professions. You could use politics, entertainment, and education to prove your point.

LOCAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL: this approach is effective when dealing with a problem that affects all three levels: how does this issue affect Montana, the US, as well as the world?

AAA: Each point in your speech can be broken into three parts:

I. **ASSERTION:** A statement of what you believe to be true.

A. **ARGUMENT:** Factual evidence or information everyone knows to be true to support your assertion.

B. **ANECDOTE:** A story to illustrate and support your assertion.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion is an extremely important part of the speech. It usually mirrors the introduction and has a number of different sections.

SOAPBOX- If you didn't have a solution point in your speech, you need to save the last twenty seconds for a soapbox. This is where you tell your audience what they need to do. It allows you to apply the quotation to their lives.

REVIEW/THESIS- You simply give your preview again and say that you have proven your thesis.

ATTENTION GETTER- Quickly return to your attention getter in order to create the full circle effect. You may choose to finish the story and provide some level of resolution.

CLINCHER/QUOTATION- It is always effective for the last thing that your audience hears is you saying the quotation.