

Impromptu Speech – Helen Acosta

Time Limit: 4 minutes

Goals for the Impromptu Speech

Invention

- Develop a variety of examples that can be used to support a number of universal themes
- Analyze clichés rapidly to interpret their meaning
- Build arguments that support your interpretation of given clichés

Disposition

- Begin your presentation with a surprising attention step
- Comfortably use the statement of reasons format to develop a speech in just 4 minutes
- Close your presentation with a thought provoking clincher

Style

- Use clear and evocative language
- Avoid verbal pauses

Memory

- Develop 2 arguments to support your major claim
- Use stories and examples as proof to illustrate your arguments
- Engage the audience in the presentation

Delivery

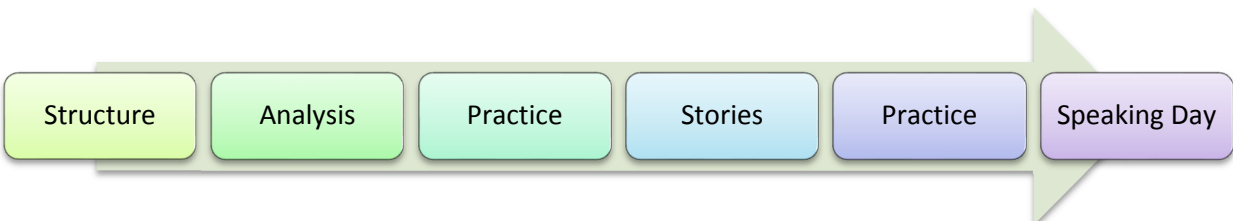
- Appear comfortable and confident
- Sound comfortable and confident
- Wear plain clean clothes without graphics or words, avoid “bling”
- Speak to one person per sentence or phrase, rather than speaking to your note card



IMPORTANT: DO NOT MISS THE CLASS WORKSHOP DAYS FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.

During the workshops you will learn the skills necessary to succeed on your speaking day.
Without these skills you will have a very unpleasant speaking day.

PROCESS:



Let your conscience be your guide.
Be true to yourself.
Clouds gather before a storm.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater.
You can't please your honey without any money.

People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
The squeaky wheel gets the grease.
Curiosity killed the cat.

Let sleeping dogs lie.
A penny saved is a penny earned.
The nail that stands up gets pounded down.

A watched pot never boils.
When it rains it pours.
Time heals all wounds.

Play like you practice.
If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.
There is a thin line between love and hate.

An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
Use it or lose it.
The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.

You reap what you sow.
A walk is as good as a hit.
Don't make a mountain out of a mole hill.

Little pitchers have big ears.
It's better to beg than borrow.
Time is money.

It's easier to ask forgiveness than permission.
Don't cry over spilled milk.
You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

A friend in need is a friend indeed.
Money can't buy happiness.
Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get.

Don't count your chicks before they're hatched.
A bird in the hand is worth two in a bush.
A clear conscience is a soft pillow.

Keep your friends close, your enemies closer.
A closed mouth catches no flies.
A drowning man is not troubled by rain.

A friend's eye is a good mirror.
Good fences make good neighbors.
A hungry person is an angry person.

A little too late, is much too late.
A lock is better than suspicion.
You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink.

A rumor goes in one ear and out many mouths.
A spoon full of sugar makes the medicine go down.
A thief believes everyone steals.

A tree falls the way it leans.
You can't judge a book by its cover.
Advice when most needed is least heeded.

All things grow with time, except grief.
An enemy will agree, but a friend will argue.
Anger can be an expensive luxury.

An old rat is a brave rat.
As we live, so we learn.
Beggars shouldn't be choosers.

Better late than never.
Better the devil you know than the devil you don't.
Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

Practice Cliché List

- AG:** Attention Getter: A short surprising story that thrusts the audience into the action immediately. Create a mystery; leave a dangling thread to use in the Clincher.
- LR:** Listener Relevance: Reveal the cliché and connect it to the audience. Example: We've all heard the saying...
- SC:** Speaker Credibility: Explain the cliché based on your understanding of it.
- T:** Thesis: Share your claim regarding the validity of the cliché. Is it still valid/helpful in the world we live in today or has it lost its usefulness over time?
- P:** Preview: Tell us the two reasons you will use to prove the claim you made in the thesis statement.
- I.** State Reason #1
- A.** Share a story that supports Reason #1
- B.** Connect Reason #1 and the story to your thesis statement.
- t:** Conclude Reason #1 and preview Reason #2
- II.** State Reason #2
- A.** Share a story that supports Reason #2
- B.** Connect Reason #2 and the story to your thesis statement.
- R:** Review your thesis statement regarding the validity of the cliché .Review Main Points (your Reasons)
- A:** Action: Leave the audience with some advice regarding the cliché
- C:** Clincher: Conclude with a WOW statement that gives the audience a sense of closure (it is a good idea to bring back the story from the attention getter here).

AG:

LR:

SC:

T:

P:

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A.

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II.

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Impromptu Script

Use this script as you begin to practice giving impromptu speeches. As your skills improve, customize the script with language that suits your speaking style. Internalize your version of the script as you will not be allowed to use the script on the speaking day.

AG: Story or example

LR: We've all heard the saying... (say cliché)

SC: For me this means that... (explain cliché)

T: That is why I (agree/disagree) with the cliché'

P: In my experience this cliché' is (true/false) because (reason #1) and (reason #2)

I. When I look at (state the cliché') I find that it is (true/false) because (state reason #1)

A. A good example of this is...

B. As you can see from this experience (re-state a part of the experience and show how it is linked to the cliché').

T: Now that you can see (state the first reason) let me explain why (state the second reason).

II. When I look at (state the cliché') I find that it is (true/false) because (state reason #2)

A. A good example of this is...

B. As you can see from this experience (re-state a part of the experience and show how it is linked to the cliché').

R: That is why I (agree/disagree) with the cliché' (restate the cliché')

RP: As you can see from this experience (restate first reason, restate 2nd reason)

A & C: So the next time you find yourself dealing with (connect to your Attention Getter) remember (to/not to) (restate cliché)

Impromptu Themes Activity (outside of class)

1: In each box write down 3 clichés from the practice cliché list that are centered on the theme.

2: On a separate piece of paper, for each theme, write 3 summaries of stories: (1) from your own life or experiences, (2) from the life of a famous person and, (3) from a famous event. Do web searches to find stories that fascinate you. You are more

1. Ambition	11. Jealousy
2. Beauty	12. Loneliness
3. Betrayal	13. Love
4. Courage	14. Loyalty
5. Duty	15. Opportunity
6. Equality	16. Perseverance
7. Fear	17. Prejudice
8. Freedom	18. Success
9. Happiness	19. Suffering
10. Individuality	20. Truth

likely to remember stories that interest you rather than stories you hastily chose to complete an assignment.

Impromptu Practice (outside of class)

On your own paper, use the practice Cliché list to develop up to 20 scratch outlines. You will receive 1 point for every complete scratch outline (See pages 187-191 of our textbook).

For the purposes of our class each scratch outline should include:

Attention Getter: keywords

Listener Relevance: (the full cliché')

Speaker Credibility: What you think the cliché means)

Thesis: (your opinion of the cliché ...this can be as simple as "agree" / "disagree")

Main point 1: First reason you agree or disagree with the cliché

Story that supports Main Point 1

Main Point 2: Second reason you agree or disagree with the cliché

Story that supports Main Point 2

Here's what a completed scratch outline might look like:

AG: Little team that could...

LR: Play like you practice

SC: You won't succeed unless you build the skill in rehearsal

Th: AGREE

1: Practice builds the stamina to succeed

S: Friends' JV team: crash after the first half

2: Rehearsal is the essential ritual of performance

S: My readers' theatre experience

When you practice impromptu prep, tackle the parts of the outline in the following order to avoid decision paralysis:

AG: #8

LR: #1

SC: #2

Th: #3

1: #s: 4,5, 6 or 7

S: #s: 4,5, 6 or 7

2: #s: 4,5, 6 or 7

S: #s: 4,5, 6 or 7

Impromptu Practice Log (outside of class)

Make sure to practice no more than twice in any hour. Please list the following:

Date	Prep Time	Speaking Time	Chosen Life Lesson/Cliché	What I did well	What I need to keep working on
3/27	4:00	3:43	<i>As ye show so shall ye rip</i>	<i>Found 3 stories</i>	<i>Transitional phrases</i>
1.					
2.					
3.					
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