

Super Important Tips

Before getting into the heart of writing the speech, there are some really important tips to pay attention to. These things most pertain to the delivery of your speech, and are things to keep in mind. If necessary, reread later.

Trim Your Speech

Your speech should run between 2 and 4 minutes. 5 minutes at max. Remember, the guests, as well as the new couple, have other things to do. And you're giving a short, congratulatory speech, not a lecture on thermodynamics.

Be Yourself

If you do any research online or watch videos of people giving speeches, you might be inclined to model how they talk. Don't do this. That person might be raunchy or shy or smart or whatever, but they're not you. And just because you're talking about the groom, the bride, the wedding and so forth, doesn't mean you can't be yourself. Let your personality shine; don't just read your speech.

This is why rehearsing is so important, it frees you up to focus on the couple, not delivering the speech. Be playful, funny, honest (without a bite). This leads me to my next point.

Use Your Speech to lighten the mood

When it comes to entertainment, there's usually a good deal of it at a wedding. Jokes, music, videos – people go to be entertained; especially the ones that aren't directly involved. Most guests come for the food, and stay to be polite.

Why not give them a good time if you can help it?

When it comes to your speech, a good practice is using your speech to lighten the mood. It is okay to put a few jokes in your speech, but don't go overboard (see Joker Overkill below).