

Self-Introduction Speech Assignment

Speech Type: Extemporaneous

Time: 3 - 5 minutes ("safe" 2:50 – 5:30)

General Purpose: To Inform

Specific Purpose: To inform the audience about how a selected object symbolizes/relates to you/your life!

Organizational Pattern: Topical

The purpose of this speech is to inform your audience about some part of you or your life through a selected object that reflects who you are. The object may represent you literally and/or figuratively! Your object may be food, clothing, shoes, a piece of jewelry, equipment or tools for a hobby or sport, some product, etc. Use this object as a foundation to share important and unique information about yourself to the class. This speech will help you all connect as a class for future speeches!

Specific Requirements:

1. Select an object that reflects something about who you are. Have fun with this assignment!
2. Using this object, develop 2 – 3 main ideas that describe the connection between the object and you.
3. Use these ideas to create Main Points and develop an outline with an Introduction, Body (describing those 2 – 3 Main Points), and Conclusion.
4. Prepare note cards, based off of your outline, and practice giving the speech from them.
5. As you practice your speech, decide how and when you will show/use the object. Also time yourself each time to make sure you are within the time window.
6. Practice your speech several times – this will increase your confidence and familiarity with the information. Pay attention to eye contact, gestures, and the volume and speed of your voice. Memorizing your points is fine, but speaking naturally and extemporaneously is vital – not a canned performance!
7. Revise your note cards as needed so they are more useful to you – use larger writing, or draw pictures or symbols to remind yourself about delivery.
8. On the day of your speech dress up a little! This will help increase your confidence, and make you appear more credible to the audience.
9. On the day of your speech, remember to bring your object (visual aid), your note cards to present from, and your outline and evaluation form to turn in.



Formal Outline for Self-Introduction Speech

Introduction – *Remember to greet the audience and tell them your name!*

- I. Develop a strategy to get audience's attention (i.e. a story, quote, visual, question, shocking statement, etc.). Describe here:

- II. Tell audience why you are credible – Are you an authority or worth listening to?

- III. Establish listener relevance to connect your topic with the audience and show how this topic is important or beneficial to audience.

- IV. State a Specific Purpose/Thesis, which will tell your audience why you are speaking to them and/or what the goal of your speech is.

- V. Preview the main ideas or sub-points of your speech.

Body

I. 1st Subtopic:

- A.
- B.

Transition:

II. 2nd Subtopic:

- A.
- B.

Transition:

III. 3rd Subtopic:

- A.
- B.

Transition: Signals that your speech is coming to an end

Conclusion

- I. Thesis Restatement
- II. Main Point Summary:
- III. Clincher or Closing strategy to connect to audience, i.e. story, example, question or quote.