

Finding Speech Topics

Overview:

- We all have MANY speech ideas inside of us!
- Your OWN stories are important and people want to hear them.
- It's not that you don't have ANYTHING to talk about; it's that you have TOO MUCH to talk about!

An Exercise...

For each exercise below, I'll give you 30 seconds to complete the sentence. Just write down whatever pops into your head and write as much as you can for each category.

<p>1) The most exciting thing I ever did...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>6) My family tree has some nuts...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>2) The biggest surprise of my life...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>7) My favorite pet...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>3) I'm proud of my mother and father because...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>8) My hobbies are...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>4) Some places I have visited...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>9) The most stupid thing I ever did...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>5) Some places I want to visit...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>10) My favorite movie and why...</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Some Easy Tips:

- Keep a notebook to use for speech inspiration (many great comedians and writers do this). What to include:
 1. Areas of interest, things you know a lot (or even a little) about.
 2. Things you WANT to learn about.
 3. Personal experiences and stories (funny, sad, intriguing, etc.).
 4. Current events, what's happening in the world.
- Clip/print articles (magazines, newspapers, internet) and share key points.
- Look around your house or apartment for ideas, or look at signs and places while you're driving.
- Use others' speeches for inspiration (expand upon a topic or do a "counterpoint" speech).
- Use one of the following speech strategies:
 1. Express an opinion.
 2. Address cause and effect.
 3. Break topic into components (i.e. legal, social, educational).
 4. Discuss past, present, and future.
- Ask for help (have the group suggest 3-5 possible topics, select your favorite).

Quick & Easy Speech Preparation:

- Choose an objective: inform, persuade, inspire, or entertain.
- Construct an open and close (quote, statistic, thesis, main point).
 - "Memorize the open, memorize the close, fiddle with the middle."
- Write down 2-3 main points.
- Create a rough outline with key points, stories, etc.

Useful Resources:

- Toastmasters Advanced Manual Projects: <http://www.foundersdistrict.org/wiki/AdvancedCommunication?v=blr>
- 5,750+ Speech Topics: <http://www.speech-topics-help.com/index.html>
- Possible Speech Topics: http://lynn_meade.tripod.com/id89.htm
- UCB Library Subject Pages: <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/us/federal.htm>
- Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page
- Demonstration Speech Topics: <http://www.nvcc.edu/home/npeck/spd100/units/demotopics.htm>
- Inspirational Quotes: <http://www.worldofinspiration.com/>
- Today in History: <http://www.scopesys.com/today/>