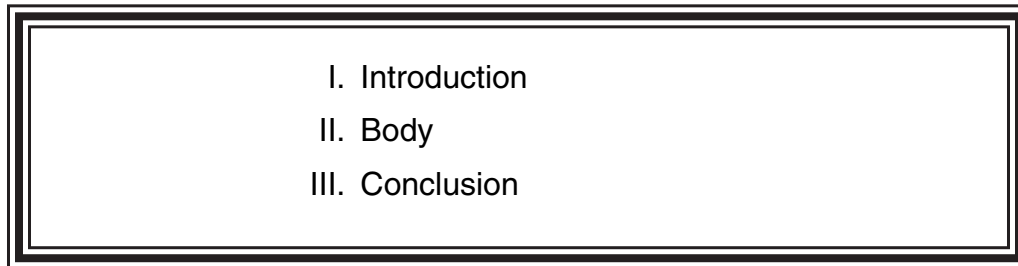


Impromptu Speech

The impromptu speech is an unprepared speech that one gives with spontaneity. It is often done when the speaker draws a topic—sometimes a silly one—and gives the speech off the top of his or her head. Each member of the class can supply one topic to put into the drawing. If preferred, the class may base their speeches on the topics suggested on page 15.

A speaker may prepare an impromptu speech by following the basic three-point speaker outline:



Introduction

The introduction may be an attention-getting statement, joke, or anecdote. It is always a good idea for speakers to learn famous or well-known quotations, since these make great introductions. It is also possible to present a simple incident in a dramatic or storytelling format.

Example: “A young child rummages through the garbage behind a grocery store. She pulls her thin jacket around her frail body and shivers against the cold. For her, this subject—hunger in America—is a harsh reality.”

This introduction has accomplished several goals:

- gotten the attention of the listener
- personalized the subject
- created sympathy for a presented need
- provided an organizational tool to restate the need and develop a conclusion.

Conclusion

When presenting a conclusion, refer back to the introduction.

Example: “Feeding the hungry may hold little interest for the comfortable, but, to the child rummaging through garbage for provisions, it is of immediate interest today—and has an even graver impact on her tomorrows.”

Impromptu Speech *(cont.)*

Presentation Time: 1 to 3 minutes

Assignment: After choosing a topic, each student should give a short impromptu speech on the subject. Topics for impromptu speeches may be provided by the class. However, if preferred, you may cut out the following suggestions for topics, place them in a hat, and have each member draw one out for his or her speech.

Life on Other Planets	Favorite Sport
Watermelon	Bubble Gum
Pizza	Favorite President
Most Memorable Character	Elephants
Coping with My Sibling(s)	The Best Pet to Have
Most Memorable Day	Favorite Day of the Year
First Day of School	Marshmallows
Mistakes I've Made	The Best Way to Get Exercise
News Story I'm Tired of	How to Make Lots of Money
A Memorable Book	What Makes Me Really Mad
A Memorable Movie	If I Could Invent a Candy
How to Improve School	How to Promote World Peace
Favorite Actor	What Food I'm Best at Cooking
Funniest Person Alive	The Best Car to Own
Favorite TV Show	The Best City to Live In

Impromptu Speech *(cont.)*

Critique Sheet

Speaker: _____

Evaluator: _____

Circle an evaluation mark in each category and add constructive comments in the provided space.

1—Superior 2—Excellent 3—Good 4—Fair

Delivery Technique:

Facial Expression (relaxed, animated, and responsive): 1 2 3 4

Vocal Expression (variance, rate, pitch, volume, intensity, inflection): 1 2 3 4

Diction, Grammar, and Word Usage (No “you know’s,” “um’s,” or “ah’s”): 1 2 3 4

Eye Contact (looks at audience, not overly dependent on notes): 1 2 3 4

Bodily Action and Gestures (relaxed, comfortable stance, no distracting movements, notes handled well): 1 2 3 4

Comments: _____

Organization and Content:

Introduction (attention step): 1 2 3 4

Body (followed organized outline and developed points): 1 2 3 4

Conclusion (summary and closing comments): 1 2 3 4

Comments: _____
