

WRITING YOUR SPEECH
(suggestions from Vivian Casil 1/08)

As you begin to write, keep in mind that you are writing a speech and NOT a research paper. READ LAST YEAR'S WINNING SPEECHES FROM THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR DIVISIONS. (See handouts #5c, #5d and #5e)

Begin your speech with an

INTRODUCTION

You may choose some of the suggestions listed below to begin your speech:

- Restate the topic.
- Ask a question.
- Relate a story/anecdote.
- Then give a brief description to the audience of what they will hear you say

1ST Section—Body (researched information)

Use the facts/details you read about to answer all or some of the following questions:

- Who/What are you writing about?
- What happened (in this situation/to this person)?
- Where did it happen?
- When did it happen?
- How did it happen?
- Why did it happen?
- (Make sure to cite your sources when using a quotation or paraphrasing)

2nd Section—BODY (personal reply)

This is where you share your personal feelings about who/what you have read.

- What does the topic mean to you?
- What would have said/done/acted/felt (in this situation or as this person)?
- Give examples about how this situation or person (has influenced/ will now influence) your life.
- Relate a story or a current events article that mirrors the travails of the situation or person.
- Apply it to 21st century life.

CONCLUSION

Write a good ending to your speech instead of just stopping it.

--A good ending should summarize the main idea of your speech and leave your audience with an understanding of the topic.

--At this point, don't add any new information, since it can't be developed.

--After the wrap up sentence, it may be appropriate to leave your audience with a reflective or personal sentence, either in the form of a question, statement or exclamatory remark.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

DO NOT INCLUDE MANY DATES OR STATISTICS IN YOUR SPEECH.

YOUR AUDIENCE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE ABOVE DATA.

AS A RESULT, YOUR SPEECH WILL BE INEFFECTIVE.

BUT:

DO INCLUDE ANECDOTAL STORIES.

DO WRITE IN A CONVERSATIONAL TONE, RATHER THAN IN AN EXTREMELY FORMAL MANNER. IT WILL BE EASIER FOR YOUR AUDIENCE TO LISTEN TO AND UNDERSTAND YOUR SPEECH.

* Prepared by Vivian Casil