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