

Assignment Speech #2:

Speech of Self-Introduction Based on a Personal Object (4 minutes)

Due date: 07/06/10

Oral presentation 25 points – Outline 10 points

The speech should be delivered extemporaneously from brief notes on 4 x 6 index cards. It is important to establish eye contact 50% of the time. You may have 15 seconds forgiveness either side. Additionally, the speech outlines must follow the template provided with this assignment.

In preparation for this speech, select an object that represents a significant aspect of your cultural background, personality, values, ambitions, etc. Using the chosen object as a point of departure, you should develop a speech that explains how it relates to your life.

For example, a new father might select a cloth diaper as a vehicle for discussing his attitude as a parent. An avid tennis player might settle on a tennis racket to illustrate her passion about the sport and how it relates to the personal background.

If possible, you should bring the object of your speech to class on the day of the presentation. If this is not possible because the object is too large, too rare, or too valuable, you should bring in a model, drawing, or photograph of the object.

The purpose of this speech is not to explain the object in detail, but to use it as a vehicle for the speaker to introduce herself or himself to the class.

ORGANIZATIONAL GUIDELINES

- Speech must have an introduction, body, and conclusion (see outline)
- Speak from brief notes - not a manuscript. Eye contact with audience is vital.
- Practice your speech at least 5-7 times in front of a mirror or recording device before your date. You should know your time and get a feeling for the duration of the speech. Time and eye contact are very important for this assignment. Review your first taped speech to improve on identified areas.

SPEECH DAY GUIDELINES

- Wear clothing appropriate for your audience and occasion. You must stand.
- Turn in a typed outline with the items in the sample outline. You will lose points if any items are missing. Follow the guidelines provided in the sample outline.
- Place your outline and DVD-R blank (must be labeled!) on the instructors' table before we begin the first speech.
- You must be physically in your seat in the classroom when roll is taken.

SPEECH #2: SAMPLE OUTLINE FORM

Date/Place _____

Speaker _____

Specific Purpose: (Example) To introduce myself to my audience by explaining how my shoes reveal my everyday activities, my hobbies, and the events that have shaped my inner self.

Thesis: (Example) My shoes reveal that I am an artist and a wanderer and traveler.

Body: (Minimum two main points)

I. Main point - Full sentence

II. Main point - Full sentence

Conclusion: (Full sentence) Summarizes the major themes of the speech and refers back to the introduction.

SAMPLE SPEECH

A Mile in My Shoes

1 Someone once said, you don't really know a person until you walk a mile in his or her shoes. Whoever said this must have met many a person like me. Where one's shoes have been and what they have done can give you a great deal of insight into a person. I think my shoes reveal a lot about me—not only my everyday activities and hobbies, but the events that have shaped my inner self.

2 If you closely examine my shoes, you'll notice many things that connect me to what I do. I am an artist. You may see a speck of paint that fell from the brush as I worked on my latest still-life oil painting. Or you may notice a fair amount of clay, a result of my aggressive wrestling with the medium on a potter's wheel.

3 The exterior of my shoes can tell you a lot about what I do, but they also can provide clues to who I am and where I have been. I have always been an explorer and traveler. My father says that I was born under a wandering star. My shoes have been on my feet for many of my spiritual and physical wanderings. They've walked up into the Alps, across the cliffs of Ireland, and through 14 countries. They've been on numerous backpacking trips throughout the nation and on hikes in the northern Wisconsin woods. They've been witnesses to archeological digs and rowing regattas. They were on my feet the day I took my first hike with my fiancé and the day we took the walk that ended in his proposal.

4 So you can see my shoes have been through a lot, and they're beginning to show the wear and tear a bit. They've been witnesses to my everyday adventures and the epic journeys that have shaped my life. You could learn a lot about me by looking at my shoes, but you could learn a great deal more by walking a few miles in them.

Instructor's note: Please note that this sample speech is a transcript and not the outline of the speech. Do not write and turn in a full text version of your speech!

Speech Evaluation - Personal Object Speech

Date _____

Speaker _____

Topic _____

The following criteria will be used to analyze your Personal Object speech:

1. Eye contact – Did the speaker look at audience more than 50% of the time?

2. Voice – Is speech loud enough to be heard in the back of the room?

3. Timing – Did the speech conform to the min./max. time limit?

4. Outline – Did the speaker follow the required speech preparation guidelines?

What did the speaker do most effectively?

What should the speaker pay special attention to next time?