

SPECIAL OCCASION/ CEREMONIAL SPEECH

Time limit: 2-5 minutes

Outline your speech: Prepare a detailed & complete sentence preparation outline. It must be typewritten or word processed. Turn the outline in just prior to giving your speech. No sources or visual aid needed for this speech

SPEAKING NOTES: Use key words or phrases on 3x5 notecards or PPT; do not read directly from a written speech.

PURPOSE OF SPECIAL OCCASION SPEAKING:

You take a step forward in your speaking experience when you present a ceremonial or special occasion speech. While this speech is essentially meant to sound conversational, it still requires a definite preparation and interesting presentation. You should learn the importance of these two requirements. Aside from becoming acquainted with these aspects of speech making, you should feel increased confidence and poise as a result of this speech experience. Your ease before the group will improve noticeably. By giving your best to this speech you will achieve a creditable improvement and desirable personal satisfaction.

EXPLANATION OF SPECIAL OCCASION SPEECH:

A ceremonial or special occasion speech may be one of any basic types: it may be given to (1) introduce, (2) toast, (3) present an award, (4) nominate, (5) accept, (6) give a keynote address, (7) celebrate commencement, (8) commemorate or give tribute, (9) eulogize, or (10) give an after dinner speech. For our purposes, you will *choose one of these ten*.

You should study and plan the speech carefully. This is a speech that really requires of you – good, thorough preparation. Special occasion speeches depend above all on the creative and subtle use of language. Some of the most memorable speeches in history are commemorative addresses that we continue to find meaningful because of their eloquent expression. Two aspects of language use are especially important for commemorative speeches. The first is avoiding clichés and trite sentiments. The second is utilizing stylistic devices such as those used to enhance the presentation like--imagery, rhythm, metaphor, simile, antithesis (ex., “If you fail to prepare–You prepare to fail.”).

You will need to know what words you will use. This does not mean to memorize!! ****DO NOT MEMORIZE THIS SPEECH OR ANY OTHER YOU DELIVER IN THIS CLASS****. Develop your material informally in a conversational storytelling tone.

If you are delivering a eulogy, you are giving a speech of tribute to someone who has died. You should remember to mention the unique achievements of the person to whom you are paying tribute and, of course, express a sense of loss. It is proper to include personal, even tasteful humorous recollections of the person who has died. Turn to the living and encourage them to transcend their sorrow and sense of loss and feel instead gratitude that the dead person had once been alive among them. Feel free to do a eulogy for your own death.

If you deliver an acceptance speech remember that you are accepting an award or nomination. Thank the person making the presentation and organization that they

represent and the people who have helped contribute to your success. In addition, comment on the meaning or significance of the award to you. You may also wish to reflect on the larger significance of the award to the people and ideals it honors. Also, try to find some meaning the award may have for your audience.

If you deliver a toast, you are speaking at some momentous occasion like a wedding, a celebration of a child's birth, a reunion of friends, or a successful business venture. It should be a brief salute that can be personal or generic in nature.

SAMPLE TOPICS FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION SPEECH

- 1. Thanking the Academy for you Best Actor/Actress Award**
- 2. Thanking MTV for your Music Video Award**
- 3. Toasting the Groom or Bride at a Wedding**
- 4. Toasting your best friend after dinner on his/her promotion at work**
- 5. Eulogizing yourself**
- 6. Commemorating the opening of a new museum in your name**
- 7. Nomination speech for your support of the next President of the U.S.**
- 8. Celebrating the end of Speech 275**
- 9. Presenting an award to the Next Artist of the Year**