

SELF-INTRODUCTION SPEECH

Speech Type: Extemporaneous

Time: 3–4 minutes

Points: 100 points (90 for speech and 10 for visual aid)

Specific Purpose: To inform the audience about how a selected object illustrates something from your life.

Organizational Pattern: Topical or Chronological

The purpose of this speech is to inform your audience about some part of you through a selected object that reflects who you are. The object may either be of particular significance to you or symbolic of who you are. Focus on your culture, background, personality, life experiences, beliefs, values, interests, hobbies, dreams, etc. Be prepared to share specific stories from your life. The object(s) may be a piece of equipment, food, clothing, something you have created, a family heirloom or another special piece of memorabilia, etc. (avoid bringing in just a framed photo). Use this object as a foundation to share important and unique information about yourself to this class. You are required to bring in an object as your visual aid and are not permitted to use the classroom technology for this speech. This is an opportunity for you to share yourself with the class and learn about your classmates—this will help all of you connect with your audience for future speeches! Remember, for every minute you speak, one to two hours of preparation is needed (i.e., 3 to 4 minutes indicates 3 to 8 hours of preparation and practice). Chapter 4, *Giving Your First Speech*, provides good advice and guidelines for this speech.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

1. Select an object that reflects who you are—something important you think the class should know. This object will serve as your visual aid.
2. Use this object to develop two to three main ideas that describe the connection between the object and you.
3. Must demonstrate an approach specifically tailored to your audience and topic must be relevant at the beginning as well as throughout your speech. Why is this topic significant? Why do you care? Why should your audience care? How is this speech relevant to your audience?
4. If you go over time (4 minutes) you will lose points.
5. Must have a strong introduction and conclusion with all required elements of each.
6. Must turn in a typed outline that is approximately 2 pages which includes all critical elements completed, including headings: Specific Purpose, Central Idea and Organizational Pattern.
7. Carefully plan when, how and where you will show your visual aid. Will you hide it until you are ready to present it to create suspense and curiosity. Will you keep it on display during the entire speech so everyone can look at it and refer to it every few seconds? Will you hold the visual aid the entire speech or will you set it on the table? Plan this ahead of time. Make sure your visual aid is large enough so your audience can see it. Do not pass around your object during your speech.
8. Appropriate attire and appearance is required for this speech—think business casual. Research shows that when students dress up a little for a speech they try harder and perform better. As a professional rule, speakers should always dress slightly better than the audience.
9. Practice your speech several times. Pay close attention to eye contact, natural gestures, volume and speed. Practice to increase confidence and familiarity; do not practice to memorize your speech—if you do that you will suck the life out the speech, which audiences hate.
10. Revise your note cards so they are useful for you.