

Selecting Speech Topics



The first hurdle we face when it is time to make a speech is What Am I Going to Talk About? The answer is both very broad and very narrow: Talk about something that is of interest to you (and hopefully your intended listeners) and in which you have (or are willing to obtain) some expertise. Here is a list of potentials to get you thinking:

Some aspect of your business or profession
Your hobbies – why, how to, results
How to do something
Understanding something
Problems or challenges – solved, social, or pending
Values –moral, social, economic
Making money
Ideals
Sports
Historical Events
Facebook
Gardening
Leadership
New Technology
Politics
Important Information
Fear
An Industry – clothing, oil, auto...
Travels or vacations
Selling or buying on e-bay
Inventions
How something works

People
Social Issues
Books
Music
Couponing
Media
The Value of something
Procrastination
Any kind of process
Frustrations
Government
Charity
Stress
Pets
Buying
Selling
Diet
Exercise
Health
Stories
Social norms
Beliefs



Now take pen (or keyboard) in hand and make a list of 15 things that pique your interest. Write or type these very fast as in a brainstorming exercise – don't edit, judge, or cull now, just list the first things that come to mind. When you have 15 you can edit and eliminate: I have expertise in this one, I'd like to learn more about these, this one is too broad and I need to narrow it,

Within 48 hours after having discovered you are to speak, choose the topic of your speech. Once picked, don't vacillate. Now you are ready to do your research write the speech, practice the speech, edit the speech, practice the speech, edit again, practice (don't forget to time it) the speech. Practice the speech at least 3 more times – more if possible.

