

Impromptu Speaking

Background:

Impromptu speaking is a speech event by itself under the National Speech and Debate Association, and debaters often rely on concepts from impromptu speaking in rounds (for example, in rebuttals) as well. “Impromptu” just refers to the fact the speech is done without much planning or being rehearsed. Giving impromptu speeches is useful for learning how to think quickly and is an excellent way to improve public speaking skills!

You can view an example here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wrb6c5gyRIw>

Activity

The following exercise is inspired by the Impromptu Speaking event under NSDA. You’ll be taking 2 minutes to plan and write a 5 minute speech! The speech is typically delivered without notes, but if it makes you more comfortable, feel free to use them.

Structure:

Like most other speeches, your speech should have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. The body can have either 2 or 3 main points, or ideas. The speech can be light-hearted or serious. The speech can be based upon prompts that range from nursery rhymes, current events, celebrities, organizations, and more.

Instructions below:

1. Pick a topic & outline your speech (max time: **2 minutes**):
 - a. Pick a topic
 - i. Go to this link:
<http://www.ratespeeches.com/t=Impromptu-Speech-Topics>
 - ii. Generate **3** topics and expand **1** of them.
 - iii. Choose 1 of the expanded topics to make a speech on
 - iv. For example, if I expanded “Pursuit of Happiness”, I could select “Pros and cons (advantages and disadvantages) of the pursuit of happiness” as my topic.

Impromptu Speech Topics Generator

The impromptu speech topic generator allows you to generate random impromptu speech topics.

Number of impromptu speech topics to generate:

[Impromptu Speech Resources](#)
[More Speech Types](#)

pursuit of happiness	More -
Joys of the pursuit of happiness	
Reasons to learn about the pursuit of happiness	
Pros and cons (advantages and disadvantages) of the pursuit of happiness	
Local, national, and/or international analysis or impact of the pursuit of happiness	
A frustrating, rewarding, moving, or insightful encounter with or involving the pursuit of happiness	
love	Expand
daylight savings	Expand

- b. Plan/outline the speech! Remember: don't plan out exactly what you want to say. Instead, just create a general outline.
2. Give your speech (max time: **5 minutes with 30 second grace**)
3. You're done!