

Speech class homework for January 28 –February 4, 2008

We completed the autobiographical speeches today. Congratulations! You have all had some amazing experiences growing up. Thanks for sharing them with the class.

I hope you all have chosen a selection for your oral interpretation speech and will practice diligently. The selection may be prose or poetry, but you must put yourself into the work and read it expressively. This should be a published work. If you choose a portion of a Narnia story, plan an introduction that will allow your audience to have some background before you launch into the excerpt you are interpreting. Costumes may be used, but the strength of the interpretation should lie in voice “color”; this refers to changing the pitch from highs to lows and the volume from louds to softs. Make sure you have a complete understanding of the words in the selection (meaning and pronunciation), and don’t forget to work on pacing or rate of the speech, facial expressions, eye contact, and clarity of your words.

For all of you:

- I was lenient with the outlines for your autobiographical speeches, but by the informative speeches, I expect you to write a phrase outline that is grammatically parallel and that gives enough information. Do NOT use Introduction or Conclusion as major Roman numerals
- **Oral interpretation speeches will be performed on Feb. 4 and 11.**
- Brainstorm at home and with friends for the topics of future speeches:
 - Informational speech
 - Inspirational speech
 - Demonstration speech
 - Persuasive speech
- Read a news magazine and watch the news to prepare for the impromptu speeches

We do NOT have class on February 18th (Presidents’ Day), so you have an extra week to prepare your informative speech. Make this something practical for you. If you are headed to college and know nothing of adult stem cell research, this would make a worthy topic. If your interests lie in economics, business, or even diamond investing, do some research and inform us about the topic!

If a student has put forethought into the topics rather than scurrying for a topic the week the speech is due, the results are usually much better. Keep a list of possible topics; start the list or keep adding to it this week.

Study the MLA form for citing resources for the informative speech. Remember that the outline, bibliography and a visual count for 30 points (almost 1/3 of the total grade). Do not throw away these points by missing the information. You will have a homework assignment using the MLA format due on February 11th. Pay attention to the exact way to write parallel phrase outlines and to cite sources used for the speech.