

Speech Pointers about Inspirational Speeches

From what I have seen and heard from you thus far, try to **work on smoother transitions**. Also, add **meaningful gestures** but don't flop around like a dying fish, and **speak loudly enough and slowly enough** to be heard over the heating system and to be understood.

What's ahead in speech class?

Class on March 12 revolves around the impromptu speech. There will be a paper sack filled with topics for a speech. You choose a topic. If you are willing to plan (five minutes outside in the hall) a 2-minute speech, then you keep that topic. **DO NOT READ THE TOPIC OUT LOUD**. If that topic seems impossible for you, you may pick another topic for your speech, BUT you must use one of the two topics for your impromptu speech. While one student prepares, one student delivers his/her speech. All class members will have comment sheets to offer constructive comments about each student's speech.

On March 19 and 26, students will deliver the **4-6-minute inspirational speeches**.

A few words about the inspirational speech...

Speakers try to inspire us toward a great cause (run a race for the benefit of cancer research) or to take strides toward some creative effort (sign up for a painting course) or to put forth great team effort (a locker room pep talk before a game or at half time) or to improve ourselves physically, emotionally or spiritually (a decision to memorize Scripture or serve on a summer mission team or get off caffeine).

This speech does not have to be a short devotional, although that constitutes an inspirational speech. The topics, as with my examples above, can cover a wide variety of topics.

Remember that **an inspirational topic is not just information. The speaker should seek to inspire by a speech that appeals to both intellect and emotion, to mind and spirit.**

Good inspiration should move the audience to consider action, not with the lawyer's appeal of a persuasive speech (which comes later this semester), but with sincerity and a genuineness derived from the speaker's ETHOS, or believability. The speaker must believe in the topic enough for the audience to accept the speaker's truthfulness of character.

Think about an appropriate topic, something that truly matters to you. Email Mrs. Wolfe with your proposed topic during the week of March 5th so she can approve your topic or suggest another possibility.