

Commemorative Speech Assignment

Overview:

The purpose of your commemorative speech is to celebrate a person, event, object, or idea. For this speech, you are welcome to be creative and imagine a situation and event that has not yet occurred. For example, if you are giving a speech to present an award to someone, you can present the award to someone that you think should eventually win the award, even if that has not yet happened. You should pay careful attention to the use of language and make a point of using many language structures and devices throughout your speech.

As you prepare your speech, you need to consider several questions:

1. What type of commemorative speech do you plan to give? You may choose to give a eulogy, a toast, present an award, receive an award, or give a graduation address.
2. What or who is being celebrated in your speech? What do you need to know about the person or situation?
3. What is the situation or context in which this speech is being given? How can you adapt your speech to fit the expectations of the context? What are the emotions that are expected in this situation?
4. Who is in your audience? How can you adapt your speech to fit your audience's expectations?
5. What do you need to do to let your audience determine the situation/context/event without explicitly telling them what it is?

Organizing your speech:

Since commemorative speeches have a much more fluid structure and organization than informative or persuasive speeches, your speech does not need to have obvious transitions and main points. However, each type of commemorative speech has a set of expectations for how the speech will be structured and what will happen in the speech. Your speech should meet the expectations for the particular type of commemorative speech that you have selected. For example, if you are giving a wedding toast, you need to remember to ask everyone to raise their glasses and toast the couple at the end of your speech. If you are receiving an award, you should begin by thanking the person or organization that gave you the award.

Language:

Commemorative speeches rely heavily on the use of language structures and devices to help heighten the importance and emotion of the situation. You should use **at least 5 different language structures or devices** in your speech. Please **highlight and label** the language structures and devices that you use in your final outline so that your instructor can easily see which figures of speech you intended to use.

Notes: While planning your speech, you will develop a full sentence preparation outline. When you give your speech in class, you should use only **one notecard** with a keyword outline.

Length: 4–6 minutes

Bring to class on the day of the speech:

- Instructor evaluation form
- Peer evaluation form
- Final draft of your speech outline with language structures and devices highlighted and labeled
- List of references in APA format (if applicable)