

Informative Speech Assignment

Overview:

The purpose of your informative speech is either to increase your audience's knowledge of a topic or to teach your audience something new. In this speech, you are not trying to change your audience's attitudes, actions, or beliefs—you will do that in your persuasive speech later in the quarter. Instead, you should focus on helping your audience learn more about your topic.

When selecting a topic for your informative speech, you should begin by asking yourself a series of questions about each topic that you consider:

1. Is this an appropriate topic for an informative speech?
2. Is this a topic in which I am interested? Is this topic important to me?
3. Do I have expertise in this area or want to learn more about this subject?
4. Will my audience be interested in this topic?
5. How much does my audience already know about this topic?
6. Will learning more about this topic help or improve my audience in some way?

After selecting a topic, you should develop a specific purpose and thesis statement for your informative speech. Decide which pattern of organization is best for presenting your main points and incorporate support materials as you develop your speech outline. Use the Informative Speech Outline template in the following section to help plan and organize your speech.

Research: For this speech, you will need to conduct outside research. You should consult a variety of sources, such as newspaper articles, magazines, peer-reviewed academic journals, books, and websites. You should include a reference list in APA format with your outline. During your speech, you should orally cite at least three different sources.

PowerPoint: For this speech, you are required to use PowerPoint during your presentation. Please refer to your textbook for guidelines when developing your presentation.

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

Length: 5–7 minutes

What you need to bring to class:

Workshop day:

- 2 copies of your outline
- Peer workshop evaluation
- Stopwatch or other timer

Speech day:

- Instructor evaluation form
- Peer evaluation form
- Final draft of your speech outline
- List of references in APA format
- Previous drafts of your speech outline
- Peer workshop form from workshop day