

GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL OCCASION SPEECH

Purpose of the Category:

To develop skills related to adapting oral presentations to specific situational demands.

Definition of the Category:

The challenge to the speaker is to make an appropriate presentation which responds to the constraints of the occasion (including the probable audience). In considering the "appropriateness" of the speaker's work, attention will be paid to the purpose the speaker chooses, the position taken, the content, organization and general stylistic "tone," and the manner of delivery. It is possible that a speech may pursue more than one of the standard general purposes of informing, persuading, and entertaining. Speakers may use visual materials but such materials must support--not dominate--the presentation. This category calls for a speech, not a visual media show. The "situations" for Special Occasion Speech from which the student selects are to be changed from year to year.

Develop an appropriate, original speech for one of the following situations:

- A. Speech to Gain Good Will
- B. A Nomination Speech
- C. A Wedding or Anniversary Speech
- D. Celebrity Eulogy

Rules:

1. Prior to the presentation, the participant is to announce which of the above situations has been chosen. This announcement must be brief and is not considered part of the presentation on which the student will be evaluated.
2. Maximum time limit: 8 minutes. A 15 second grace period is allowed, after which one point will be deducted from that evaluation item dealing with rate.
3. The use of both sides of one 4x6 note card is optional.
4. Visual supporting materials may be used,

Criteria for Evaluation:

1. The extent to which the apparent specific purpose was appropriate to the occasion.
2. The extent to which the content and organization of the speech fulfilled the speaker's purpose.
3. The extent to which the presentation reflected effective language skills, including such items as use of transitions and clear, vivid and appropriate word choices.
4. The extent to which the vocal presentation was clear and appropriate to the chosen occasion, including such items as articulation, pronunciation, volume, rate, pitch and voice quality.
5. The extent to which the physical presence contributed to the clarity and effectiveness of the presentation, including such items as the use of a note card, any visual materials, facial expression, eye contact, gestures and bodily movement.

SPECIAL OCCASION SPEECH EVALUATION SHEET

Name _____ Time _____ Situation _____

Circle the number representing your response to the question - 1. WEAK 2. FAIR 3. GOOD 4. VERY GOOD 5. EXCELLENT

USE THE SPACES BELOW TO **EXPLAIN YOUR RATING** AND TO **PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT**.

1. To what extent was the apparent specific purpose appropriate to the occasion? **1 2 3 4 5**

2. To what extent did the content and organization of the speech fulfill the speaker's purpose? **1 2 3 4 5**

3. To what extent did the presentation reflect effective language skills, including such items as use of transitions and clear, vivid and appropriate word choices? **1 2 3 4 5**

4. To what extent was the vocal presentation clear and appropriate for the chosen occasion, including such items as articulation, pronunciation, volume, rate, pitch and voice quality? **1 2 3 4 5**

5. To what extent did the physical presence contribute to the clarity and effectiveness of the presentation, including such items as the use of note card, any visual materials, facial expression, eye contact, gestures and bodily movement? **1 2 3 4 5**

Going Over Time (-1) _____
Total Points _____ X 2 = _____