

Activist Speech

Components of An Effective Speech

The Introduction

- A. Capture the attention of your audience (“hook” audience into paying attention)
- B. Prepare audience for the message of your speech

Ways to open a speech

- A. Ask a question
- B. Tell a startling statistic
- C. Use Humor
- D. Make a historical reference
- E. Give a quote

Components of an Effective Speech

Body

- describe his/her role as an activist
- What he/she fought to change and
- what methods did he/she use to convince society to make change?
- interesting tidbits

Components of An Effective Speech

The Conclusion

- A. Provides closure (audience knows you are finished)
- B. Final opportunity to summarize main points
- C. Spur your audience into action
- D. Thesis Statement-one sentence summary of your main purpose

ex: Clearly, Cesar Chavez was an important figure who changed the course of history for migrant farm workers.

Ways to conclude a speech

- A. Summarize main points
- B. Refer back to something you said in the introduction
- C. Answer the question you asked in your introduction
- D. Use a quote

Sample Speech

Intro: A humble hero, that is how Cesar Chavez should be remembered. Why? He was a tornado, changing the lives of all whose paths he crossed.

Body:

- experienced injustice at a young age, family forced off land
- moved to California to be migrant workers
- dropped out of school in 8th grade to become a full-time migrant worker
- experienced inequality
- learned about Gandhi and nonviolence protesting
- became involved with the Community Service Organization-helped voters register
- 1962 he founded The National Farm Workers Association (UFW)
- fought for rights by marching and fasting for over 50,000 workers

Conclusion:

Thesis: Clearly, Cesar Chavez was an important figure who changed the course of history for migrant farm workers.

“Si, se puede!”

Presentation Skills

I. Voice

- A. Speak audibly and vary volume
- B. Speak with expression
 - 1. Avoid a monotonous tone
- C. Control the pacing
- D. Enunciate

II. Body Language

- A. Stand straight and tall
- B. Gestures and hand movements
 - 1. Avoid nervous gestures

III. Eye Contact

- A. Look at the audience
 - 1. Glance at your note cards then look back at your listeners
- B. Focus on spot at back of room
 - 1. Technique to help calm nervousness

IV. Facial Expressions

- A. Adds meaning to words
- B. Smile
 - 1. Helps put you and your audience at ease