

Story With A Point Speech

In this assignment you will tell a story that persuasively makes a point. The speech should be 3-5 minutes in length. Like all the speeches in this course, this speech must be delivered extemporaneously.

Content Criteria

There are a number of ways in which a story can be used to make a point. You may use any one of the following techniques:

1. The story may serve as a simple example of the point you are making. For instance, you might tell a true story about a horrible accident caused by a drunk driver to support the point that accidents result from drunk driving.
2. If you wish to illustrate the possible, likely, or typical results of a set of conditions you might make use of a story which acts as a hypothetical example. Hypothetical examples are realistic stories about events that might occur under the right conditions. If you wish to convince your audience that food poisoning is a serious problem, you might invent a story about what would happen to a group of picnickers afflicted with food poisoning.
3. A story can support a point through analogy. In an analogy you describe a situation or series of events from which a clear lesson can be drawn and then show that the lesson applies to a second situation or series of events. Al Gore used this type of story very effectively at the 1988 Democratic convention, when he talked very emotionally about the long process of nursing his son back to health after an automobile accident. At the end of the story he drew the analogy between his son and the United States, saying that the country was in a similar situation and that he would act in a similar way. The analogy may be actual or hypothetical, depending on the point you wish to make.

Organization Criteria

This speech should exhibit the basic introduction-body-conclusion organization that characterizes all formal public speaking.

- In the introduction of this speech, you should have an attention-getting device and prepare the audience to understand the significance of the story that follows.
- The body should be the story itself. It should employ vivid description and language that will entertain and emotionally involve the audience. Make sure that by the end it is clear what the point of the story is and how the story supports that point. Also, make choices about what parts of the story to emphasize and what parts to play down based on your persuasive purpose and audience.