The introductory speech is designed for you to tell us something about yourself. In addition, the speech will provide us with your previous knowledge, if any, of giving speeches.

The speech counts 50/25/0 (full/half/no credit) and is required. It should be 2-3 minutes in length. The purpose of the Introductory Speech is to:

1. Familiarize you with how it feels to stand and speak in front of our class
2. Learn the basics of an informative speech
3. Become comfortable with the Content and Form of public speaking

It is not so that we can:

1. Publicly embarrass or humiliate you; nor
2. Laugh at you

Public speaking is the number one fear of most people. Most of your interaction with people is either one-on-one or among small groups of friends and coworkers. Standing and speaking before people is not an everyday occurrence for most of us, and it is perfectly natural to feel uncomfortable, nervous, nauseous, and a whole lot more!

This class is designed to give you the basics of public speaking as well as to help you to begin feeling more comfortable when speaking before a group of people.

The basic structure of a good informative speech includes the Introduction, Body and Conclusion.

I. Introduction
   A. Attention getter
      * Get our attention; give us a reason to listen to you
   B. Thesis statement
      * A sentence (or two) that tells us what the speech is about; the main idea
   C. Preview of main point(s)
      * Preview each of the main points in advance
   D. Your interest in the topic
      * Why this topic matters to you; how it relates to your life.

II. Body
   A. Main point 1
   B. Main point 2
   C. Main point 3

III. Conclusion
   A. Review of main point(s)
      * Remind us of what we heard; review each of the main points again
   B. Restate thesis
      * Remind us about the main idea of the speech; what it was about
   C. Residual message
      * Give us a phrase, saying or quotation to help us remember your speech

Another way of thinking of the informative pattern of speech is the old adage, “Tell them what you’re going to say; say it; and tell them what you said.” That is, Intro (tell them what you’re going to say), Body (say it), and Conclusion (tell them what you said).
Introductory Speech: Speech 100 -- Neffenger

Some requirements:

• Select an object (visual aid) that represents a significant aspect of your background, personality, values, ambitions, goals, etc.
• Use the chosen object as a point of departure to develop a speech that explains how this object relates to your life. (If the object of your speech is too large, rare, or too valuable, please bring in a model, drawing, photograph, etc. of the object.)
• The purpose of the speech is not to explain the object in detail, but to use it as a vehicle for you, the speaker, to introduce yourself to your audience.
• Use the Introductory Speech Worksheet to plan your speech into 2 or 3 main points as well as to make sure that you accomplish all necessary parts of the Introduction and Conclusion.

For example:
1. a journalism major selected a newspaper as a way to explain her professional goals.
2. a new father selected a diaper to discuss his experiences as a parent
3. an avid tennis player used a tennis racket to illustrate her passion for the sport

In this form of rhetoric, it is best to rely on an orderly arrangement to assist your audience by clearly dividing the topic. For introductory speeches, a “classic” two or three part division works best: past, present, future; that was then, this is now; low, medium, high; cost, benefit; problem, solution; us, them; what we want, what we can get; animal, vegetable, mineral; etc. The list can go on forever. But, pick a division quickly, and stick with it through your speech!

Most importantly, this is designed to be a learning experience to assist you with giving a good speech. Don't be too concerned about the actual topical content of the speech; we'll be more interested in the structural content and form.

After your speech, the class will provide some immediate feedback to you regarding your content (“what you said”) and form (“how you said it, and how you looked”).

How to get full credit (50 points):
• Present the speech in the assigned class, AND all of the following:
  • Use the Introductory Speech Worksheet and include all elements of Introduction, Body, and Conclusion
  • Use a visual aid
  • Provide a typewritten outline for the instructor
  • Extemporaneous delivery (no reading)

How to get half credit (25 points):
• Present the speech in the assigned class, AND any one of the following:
  • Do not use the Introductory Speech Worksheet
  • Do not use a visual aid
  • Do not provide a typewritten outline for the instructor
  • Read your speech (no extemporaneous delivery)

How to get no credit (0 points):
• Be absent on the day you are assigned to give your speech