

Ceremonial Speech - My Hero

The purpose of this assignment is to introduce students to the last format of public speaking. More often than any other speech format we are called upon to present speeches of celebration. Although these speeches can be rather lighthearted they can also be the most pragmatic. Ceremonial Speeches can include (but are not limited to) speeches of introduction, speeches of acceptance, award presentations, roasts and toasts, eulogies and other speeches of tribute, after-dinner speeches, and speeches of inspiration. In class we will have some fun with many variations of Ceremonial Speeches.

The assigned speech will be a Hero Speech. The term hero is hereby defined as someone who has inspired you. Each student must select someone who they admire, respect and someone who they feel has inspired them in some way. This must be someone the student knows personally and has had the privilege to interact with, no celebrities or sports figures. Although parents are amazing heroes and you would not be graded down for selecting a parent I want to challenge you to find someone else worthy of your respect. This could be a Coach, Aunt or Uncle, Best Friend, Grandparent, Teacher, Best Friends Parent, Brother or Sister. Select the individual you wish to honor. Then decide what you want to do for your speech - introduce them, give them an award, roast them or inspire others to be like them. In your speech make sure to include: who they are, how you know them, why they were selected as your hero and the purpose of the presentation (introduction, award, etc.). Be specific and point out the unique qualities, do not make general statements that could apply to anyone (e.g. my mother has loved and protected me).

Procedures:

1. Use an introduction that captures the attention of the audience, has a clear thesis and a preview of main points.
2. Use an extemporaneous speaking style. (note cards or a key word outline)
3. Speeches are to be 2 to 3 minutes in length.
4. Outlines are **NOT** required for this speech **BUT** I do expect you to come prepared with some of your speech on note cards. Please do not waste my time or your classmates by "winging" the speech. Visible preparation will be expected and graded.
5. Audience participation is vital to all speeches therefore everyone will be asked to give you anonymous feedback from the year - this will be assigned as homework. These audience comments will be given to you the day of the final exam.