

Walk a Mile in Your Shoes: Introduction Speech



According to Atticus Finch in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, you never really know a person until you have walked a mile in his or her shoes (Lee 374). High school students have read these powerful words across the country for years. During this **two to three-minute (do not exceed 3:30)** introductory speech, you have an opportunity to allow us to take a walk in your shoes and recognize words that you find powerful and inspiring. The purpose of this assignment is to give you a chance to "break the ice" with the audience. Begin your speech by introducing yourself. Donning your favorite kicks (a pair of shoes) and bringing in your favorite quote (in a visual format), tell us where you have been and what words inspire you.

When delivering this speech you may use **one, four-by-six-inch index card**. The shoes you select should represent a significant aspect of your background, personality, values, ambitions, etc. Consider what your **shoes** represent, where you have been, and what your personal style is. Using the chosen shoes and **quote**, you should develop a speech that explains how your experiences have not only inspired your actions but also how words impact you. Remember, our actions and words define us. Please share with us how they specifically represent you!

Learning Targets: By the end of this assignment, you will be able to say...

1. I am familiar with my audience and have overcome any speech anxiety I may have.
2. I have practiced developing and delivering a speech.
3. I engaged in self-disclosure and shared who I am with the class.

Visual Requirements (on the day of your speech):

1. Wear your favorite shoes.
2. Bring in your favorite quote printed, drawn, or decorated on an 8.5-by-11 inch piece of paper.

Speaking Tips:

1. Carefully plan your speech and practice, practice, practice! The more you practice, the more comfortable you will be sharing your speech with the class. You also want to make sure that you are making the time requirements.
2. Organize your ideas. Make sure your speech has an introduction, body, and conclusion.
3. Only write down keywords and phrases on your note card. Do not rely on your note card! Do not write your speech out word for word.
4. This is our first speech. Remember that everyone has a little speech apprehension. We are all here to support each other, and we are all in the same boat!

Rubric:

Introduction: Creatively captures the audience's attention and effectively introduces the speaker

Excellent

Good

Satisfactory

Needs Improvement

Speech Content: Contains focused points that reveal the speaker's personality; contains information that goes beyond the surface level about the person

Excellent

Good

Satisfactory

Needs Improvement

Speech Content: Explains the symbolic significance of the speaker's shoes; wears shoes discussed in the speech

Excellent

Good

Satisfactory

Needs Improvement

Speech Content: Explains how the words in the quote are powerful and meaningful to the speaker; brings in quote on an 8.5-by-11 inch piece of paper

Excellent

Good

Satisfactory

Needs Improvement

Conclusion: Brings closure to the speech (does not end abruptly)

Excellent

Good

Satisfactory

Needs Improvement

Presentation Skills: Voice is clear/volume effective; posture is calm and poised; eye contact is effective; meets the time requirement

Excellent

Good

Satisfactory

Needs Improvement

Time: _____

_____ / **30 Points**

Comments: