

# SPEAK TO LEAD, LLC

## Selected Table Topics for Youth Public Speaking Program

### SpeaktOLead.us

Table Topic Series	Theme
1.	Table Topics about Steve Jobs
2.	Table Topic about Diversity
3.	Table Topics of Icebreakers
4.	Table topics about Father's Day
5.	Table Topics about COVID-19
6.	Table Topics about Summer
7.	Table Topics about Amazon
8.	Table Topics about Stress and Pressure
9.	Table Topics about Social Etiquette
10.	Table Topics about Social Distancing
11.	Table Topics about Social the 4th of July Independence Day
12.	Table Topics about Elon Musk
13.	Table Topics about TED Talk
14.	Table topics about American Sports
15.	Table Topics of Dining / Food / Restaurant Etiquette
16.	Table topics about Pets
17.	Table Topics about Happiness
18.	Table Topics about Tiktok and WeChat
19.	Table topics of Presidential speech
20.	Table topics of Michelle Obama
21.	Table Topics about Time Management
22.	Table Topics about BTS

### **Table Topics about Steve Jobs**

#### **1. He was bullied at school**

He did not enjoy high school and had a pretty low 2.65 GPA. He was often bullied at Crittenden Middle School in Mountain View after being transferred there in the sixth grade. He became a “socially awkward loner” and eventually gave his parents an ultimatum that if they did not take him out of Crittenden, he would drop out of school.

#### **2. Was a college dropout**

Interestingly, Jobs himself did not complete his college education. He dropped out of Reed College in Portland, Oregon in 1972 because he did not want to waste his father’s money. His adoptive father was a high school dropout. While he would later become a millionaire, his biological paternal grandfather was a self-made millionaire who did not go to college.

#### **3. He was fired from Apple**

Steve Jobs was forced to resign from Apple after his plan to get rid of CEO John Sculley was leaked. His vision of closed architecture Macintosh differed greatly from that of John Sculley’s open architecture computers like the Apple II, which created a huge rift within the company. Many had already left, including Wozniak, who was not happy with the way Jobs was handling the company.

4. Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.

5. My favorite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time

6. For the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: 'If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?' And whenever the answer has been 'No' for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something.

7. What is your favorite product by Steve Jobs? iPhone, iPod, iPad, iWatch, Pixar movies, and why?

8. If you compare Elan Musk and Steve Jobs, who is a better inventor of our time? Why?

9. Steve Jobs had a cancer that killed him.

11. What if Jobs stay alive through now? Any changes he will bring?

10. What Steve does to Covid?



Emily, then Adam, then Eden, then Leo, then Rebecca

### Table Topic about Diversity

1. What is your biggest piece of advice for getting started with diversity and inclusion?
2. How do we get the entire school—including our leadership team—on board with diversity and inclusion initiatives?
3. What would you say is the most difficult part when you travel to a different culture? And why
4. What is the your favorite commodity brand as a diverse and inclusive culture? Why?
5. Have you been mistreated due to your color, race or gender? What do you respond?
6. Have you been a victim of social media bullying? How do you deal with it?
7. In your experience, why diversity (social and racial) is important to your school?
8. If you are a CEO of Coke, or Nike, what do you do to build a strong community?
9. “Please, I can’t breathe.” What does it mean to you?
10. What word below means most to you, and why?



3. If you are a father, what do you do to raise your own children?
4. What are the best things you have learned from your father?
5. What is your biggest wish for your father, and why?
6. If your mother and father have an argument, what will you do to help them resolve the issue peacefully?
7. What would you do differently to make your dad proud of you, rather than worry about you?
8. Assume your father lost his job and could not bring bread home, what would you do to help ease the financial hardship of the family?
9. What are the fun moments between you and your grandfather?
10. Have you noticed your father changed? If so, what are the changes and what caused the changes?

### **Table Topics about COVID-19**

1. What are the signs/symptoms of COVID-19?
2. What are the best ideas of hosting a birthday party with social distancing?
3. What do you do to be productive while stay-at-home?
4. What are your favorite activities during distant learning?
5. What lesson have you learned from the COVID-10 pandemic?
6. If you are the WHO president, will you do things differently to prevent the pandemic?
7. If you have one ventilator only, who will you save first: a doctor, a 90-year man, or a senator of the U.S.?
8. If you are contracted with COVID-19 will you spend your time differently than what you do today? Why?
9. How has COVID-19 changed your life?
10. If you are the President of the U.S., what will you do to prevent the crisis?

### **Table Topics about Summer**

1. If you could describe summer in three words, what would they be? And why?
2. What is your favorite summer memory?
3. What is your most memorable summer vacation?
4. What is your favorite way to cool off in the summertime?
5. What is your favorite family activity for summertime?
6. If you were invited to a cookout, what would you bring and why?
7. Which do you prefer, summer or winter?
8. What will you do to spend this summer in a fun but safe way, under COVID-19?
9. Have you been to beach? What are your favorite beach activities?
10. If you choose beach vs. ski, what is your choice, and why?

### **Ten myths about Amazon**

1. What is the secret of Amazon's success, from an online book seller to a global powerhouse?

2. Amazon prime member pays \$99 annual fee and get unlimited free shipping and free video access. What is the success story of Amazon prime?
3. Amazon drives retail stores to close, from J. Crew to J.C. Penny. Why retail company cannot compete with Amazon?
4. Jeff Bezos donates \$100 million to American Food Bank. If you have \$100 million dollar to donate, what will it go to? And Why?
5. If you set up your e-commerce business, what will it be, and why?
6. “Life’s too short to hang out with people who aren’t resourceful.” What does it mean to you to find resourceful people?
7. “A brand for a company is like a reputation for a person.” What is your personal brand? Why it is important to you?
8. Amazon packaging boxes are filled up the recycle bin. What is your solution to recycle them and reduce the waste?
9. What does the Amazon logo mean to you?
10. Jeff Bezos vs Elon Musk. Who in your view has more impact to our humanity, and why?



### Table Topics about Stress and Pressure

1. According to youth.gov, 1 in 5 youth meets the criteria for a severe mental health disorder. Why do you think this number is astronomically high?
2. Based on your observation, what is the top reason for teenager stress?
3. If you are the school principal, what will you do to reduce the student stress level?
4. Peer pressure: All people naturally want to fit in and be liked by others. Tell us your experience of not able to fit in, and how do you get over it?
5. We face pressure to succeed academically. In your experience, is such pressure helpful to perform, or harmful to perform?
6. Given the COVID-19 school shutdown, we all face uncertainty about the future. What do you worry about most? And why?
7. If you could not sleep at night, what do you do to overcome this?
8. Every parent has good intentions. Tell us an example parental pressure helped me perform well.
9. Every parent has good intentions. Tell us an example parental pressure did not help me perform well. It made it worse.
10. If you are a parent, what would you do to help your children reduce pressure?

### Table Topics about Social Distancing

1. What is your biggest challenge during social distancing, and why?
2. What is your creative idea to host a birthday party under social distancing?
3. After social distancing is over, what is your most dreamed of place to visit, and why?
4. What is your experience of having virtual / distant learning at school?
5. If Fall semester will have virtual education due to COVID-19, what will you do your study differently?
6. In what ways social distancing has changed your family life, and why?
7. What is your best experience in practicing social distancing? [walking, jogging, zooming, face timing]
8. If your friend is lonely and hopeless during social distancing, how and what will you do to help out your friend out of the distress?
9. Social distancing changed shopping habit. Tell us your experience in shopping.
10. People cook more often at home during social distancing period. What is your biggest achievement of cooking at home?

### 4th of July Independence Day Themed Table Topics

<https://www.joehxblog.com/4th-of-july-independence-day-themed-table-topics/>

1. What would the United States be like today if we had never declared independence?
2. What is your most memorable Independence day celebration? Why?
3. What do you normally do during Independence day holidays? xx
4. What do you do differently this year's July 4<sup>th</sup>, given COVID-19?

5. A child in China does not understand the power and value of Independence. What will you explain to him or her in one minute what it is all about?
6. If you were a leader who fought for Independence, what would you have done differently?
7. Any mistakes that our country did post Independence, and why?
8. Who is your favorite founding father? Why?
9. If you were to replace fireworks with something else to celebrate Independence Day, what would you replace them with, and why?
10. What is a family tradition you have or had surrounding Independence Day?

### **Table Topics about Elon Musk**

AGAINST ALL ODDS - Elon Musk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9zTr2MAFRg>

1. Elon Musk has made success in various companies: PayPal, Tesla, SapceX. What in your view is the most important accomplishment, and why?
2. Elon was born in South Africa, studies in Canada and did business in U.S. What do you think international experience helped his success, and why?
3. Elon wants to transport human beings to Mars. Can he succeed? Why or why not?
4. Elon has five children, and runs five companies. What is the secret of his balancing his life and work? Why?
5. Elon does not like Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon. If you compare the success of Elon and Jeff, what do you like more, and why?
6. If you compare Elon and Steve Jobs, who has made more contribution to humanity, and why?
7. If you are Elon, what will be your next business idea, and why?
8. Elon challenges GM in cars, Boeing in SpaceX, and PayPal in banks. Do you think ambition is the key factor of his success? Why and why not?
9. If you summarize three words about Elon, what are they and why?
10. Tesla is a cool car. What are the special features of Tesla and why they are special?

### **Table Topics about TED Talk**

1. What is your favorite TED talk speech, and why?
2. If you are invited to give a TED talk tomorrow, how will you prepare for it?
3. TED talk inspires people to learn, to listen and to laugh. What is your objective of your TED talk: to learn, to listen or to laugh, and why?
4. If your friend is nervous about his or her TED talk next week, how will you coach him or her to get ready?
5. TED talk in foreign language. If you give a TED talk in non-English, what langue will you choose and why?
6. TED talk across the globe. If you give a TED talk in another country, which county will you select, and why?
7. If you want to change in one thing in TED format, what will that be and why?

All rights reserved. Coaching request? Please contact [speaktolead.us@gmail.com](mailto:speaktolead.us@gmail.com)

8. TED talk can be three minutes short and 30 minutes long. What is your preferred speech length, and why?
9. TED talk is given by human being. Do you think robot or Alexa can give a TED talk? Why?
10. If you want to have a TED talk speech competition, what criteria will you use to judge the winner?

### **Table topics about American Sports**

1. What is your favorite sport to play and why?
2. What is your favorite sport event to watch, and why?
3. What is your favorite professional sport team, and why?
4. Who is your sport hero, and why?
5. 2020 Tokyo Olympics is cancelled due to Covid-19. Do you think it is a good idea to cancel it, and why?
6. If we elect a sport champion to be our president, who will he or she be, and why?
7. Losing a game can be painful and tearful. Tell us one experience your favorite team lost the game and what was your feeling?
8. By playing sports we develop character. What do you learn from practicing sport?
9. Winter sport and summer sport can be both fun. What is your favorite seasonal sport, and why?
10. College football vs NFL. Which is your favorite, and why?
11. NFL Redskins is to change its name. What is your suggested replacement name? and why?

### **Table Topics of Dining / Food / Restaurant Etiquette**

1. Going to a formal banquet can be stressful. Tell us your memorable formal banquet and what's your experience.
2. Spill drink in the restaurant or break the dish can be embarrassing. Tell us your most embarrassing moment in a restaurant dining and how did you survive from it.
3. Eating and laughing is double pleasant. Tell us a story how you entertained your table with your joke or story-telling.
4. Listening during a dining session is polite and pleasing. Give us a few tips of how to be an attentive listening during the dining conversation.
5. Dining with a table of strangers can be intimidating. Tell us your experience in breaking the ice.
6. Remember diner's names can be challenging. What is your suggestion to remember people's names fast?
7. Small talk is as nutritious as dishes. What is your favorite small talk at party / dinner?
8. Using humor is tasteful in dinner. What is your best joke in memory?
9. Going to family dinner in China can be fun and annoying the same time. Tell us your experience about it.
10. If you invite your girlfriend to a formal dinner, what do you do to impress her?

### Table topics about Pets

1. Do you think people who have pets live longer than people who don't have pets? Why?
2. Are there any animals that make you uncomfortable? Why?
3. Is a dog really people's best friend? Why or why not?
4. How can you tell your dog (or cat) that you will not be at home forever (after Covid)?
5. During COVID-19 crisis, pets help us de-stress. Tell you what would a pet do to you to help you relax and reduce anxiety.
6. Lots of dog owners do a good job of picking up after their pets. Others... not so much. If you were the municipality, how would you deal with this problem?
7. It is funny to dress up your pet. What would you do to dress up your dog / pet?
8. In your view, is it ok for a person to have an exotic or endangered animal (white tiger, panda, lion) as a pet? Why or why not?
9. We are now at the point that there are more tigers in captivity in the USA than there are wild tigers in the rest of the world. Is this a measure of preservation? Or it is against natural choice?
10. If you pick a pet: dog vs cat. What would you choose, and why?

### Table Topics about Social Etiquette

1. If you note a rude person in public, what upset you and what will you do about him or her?
2. If you dress for a formal dinner, what is your favorite dress code?
3. What are the safest topics to chat during a social gathering?
4. Give me a few things we should do at coffee shop.
5. Tell me a pleasant airplane travel experience
6. Tell me an unpleasant airplane travel experience
7. What is your funny joke when you meet a stranger?
8. When you call your friend's parents for something, what would you do?
9. Dress to impress. What is your view to judge people by dress?
10. Personal care is personal image. Tell me your experience in judging people's personal care (hair, nail, nose hair, odor, mouth smell)

### Table Topics about Happiness

1. In your view, what is the difference of happiness vs. joyfulness
2. What is your happiest birthday, and why?
3. During COVID, people are lonely, boring, and unhappy. What can you do to overcome these bad emotions?
4. If your family member is unhappy about something, what would you do help him or her?
5. COVID can be damaging and depressing. What are the positive side that make you happy?

6. If you want to write a message to your depressive friend, what would you write to cheer him or her up?
7. What will you do to improve your relationship with \_\_\_?
8. To make you happy, what are the main factors? And why?
9. Young people like you and adults like your parents are happy with different things or situations. What makes you happy and what makes your parent happy?
10. If you wanted to change one thing in your life to make you happier, what would that be, and why?

### Table Topics about Tiktok and WeChat

1. TikTok, a video-sharing mobile application owned by the Chinese company ByteDance Ltd., has reportedly been downloaded over 175 million times in the United States and over one billion times globally. What is the secret of TikTok success?
2. If Trump government shutdown Tiktok, what will your substitute social media venue?
3. What is the funniest TikTok short video, in your view, and why?
4. What is the most creative TikTok short video I have seen, in your view, and why?
5. What would happen, if 175 million users in the U.S. lose the access of Tiktok, and why?
6. Young people spend more time on TikTok and Chinese parents spend more time on WeChat. In your view, who will suffer more from the shutoff by Trump administration, and why?
7. Can you imagine if your Chinese parents stop access WeChat for 24 hours? What could happen to him or her?
8. *Charli D'Amelio is an American TikTok star and social media personality from United States of America. She is the most followed personalities on TikTok with more than 43.5 million+ followers. What is her success secret?*
9. Social media such as TikTok and WeChat are critical during Covid, self-quarantine time. What would you do to keep socially connected and emotionally engaged without these two popular Apps?
10. Tencent owns WeChat, and also controls Fortnite and League of Legends. Will Tencent retaliate U.S. government to stopping offering these popular video games to American users, why and why not?
11. What are the secrets of Chinese IT industry success? From Tencents, to Alibaba, and Huawei 5G?

### Table topics of Presidential speech

1. Who is your favorite U.S. president, and why?
2. Who is your least favorite president, and why?
3. US presidential election costs billions of dollars, and years of campaigning. Do you think the democracy is worth the process, and why?
4. If you run for the U.S. president, what will be your number one priority to run the government, and why?

5. Franklin D. Roosevelt's famous quote: "The only thing we have to fear is...fear itself." During COVID-19 pandemic, what does Roosevelt's quote mean to you?
6. John F. Kennedy quotes "My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." What can you do for your country, and why?
7. Bill Clinton: "We must teach our children to resolve their conflicts with words, not weapons." What does this quote mean today, given the protests and unrest?
8. We have not elected a female president in our history. Why in your view, do we need a lady president to run our government?
9. We have elected one African American president. Do you think we will elect one Asian American president in the future? Why and why not?
10. Do you think our current president does a good job dealing with pandemic, why and why not?

### **Table topics of Michelle Obama**

1. Michelle likes to be fit and healthy. She exercises for 90 minutes, thrice a week. What is your effort in staying fit and healthy during COVID-19 period?
2. She graduated from Harvard Law School, but left her high-paying lawyer career to found an American nonprofit organization called Public Allies Chicago. Do you think it is wise to turn away from lucrative job to pursue low-pay public service?
3. During her first date with Barack Obama, Michelle asked her brother, a college basketball player to play basketball with Barack, and to assess Barack's personality and character. What can you tell from sports of a person's internal quality?
4. Despite her busy schedule and celebrity status, Michelle makes sure to hangout with her girlfriends as often as possible. What do you do to maintain a strong and close friendship outside your family?
5. When her younger daughter Sasha was four months, Michelle had to appear for an interview for an executive position at the University of Chicago Medical Center. But since she could not find a babysitter, she put her in a baby stroller and took her daughter with her at the interview. Do you think it is a good idea to take your infant child to a formal job interview, why and why not?
6. On and off, she makes Shrimp with Linguine, which is Barack Obama's favorite dish. In turn, during a TV interview, Michelle told she makes her husband do the dishes. What do you do in your family chores?
7. She loves playing the piano. Why in your view, playing music instrument shapes a person's character?
8. Michelle wrote her autobiography, "Becoming," becoming the most sold biography ever – 10 million copies. If you write your own autobiography, what will you include in it?
9. Michelle says, "Success isn't about how much money you make. It's about the difference you make in people's lives." What does it mean to you?
10. In her memoir, Michelle Obama says she will never forgive President Donald Trump for his birthday claims about her husband. Should we forgive another person's sin or bad behavior, why and why not?

### Table Topics about Time Management

1. Scramble at the last minute for a big deadline is stressful. Please describe your experience when you did not manage your deadline well, and what you have learned from it.
2. If your friend tends to procrastinate in a team project, how do you coach him or her to improve?
3. To use small chunk of time during big task can be fun, for example, do a one minute push-up after you finish your homework. Tell me your way to use small chunk of time.
4. Setting up a new year's resolution is easy (go to gym, lose weight, go to bed early, cutting drink, etc.), but 95% of people fail. What lesson do you draw from this failure?
5. A proverb says: fail to plan is equal to plan to fail. Tell us your successful story of a good planning and the result of it.
6. Sharpening the saw is an effective way to reset and recharge. What is your story of taking a short break between big tasks?
7. Study shows that goals written down are three times more likely to be accomplished. What goal will you write down before school start?
- 8.