

Assignment Summary

In this assignment, you will memorize and recite a speech. You may choose a speech you have previously read or do research to find a new one. You will then reflect on your experience by writing a short response. You will complete the assignment by submitting your written response.

Background Information

Speeches are important because they help people share ideas, persuade others, and inspire action. Whether given formally in events like political rallies or casually in everyday conversations, speeches aim to communicate a message effectively. They can inform, persuade, entertain, or commemorate events, using carefully chosen words and engaging delivery to connect with the audience and leave a lasting impact. Overall, speeches play a vital role in effective communication across different settings.

Speakers must think about who they are speaking to, what they are talking about, and how they are saying it. They should know their audience and organize their speech well. It's important to speak clearly and use body language to connect with the audience. Being ready for questions or concerns can also make the speech more effective.

Materials

- Search engine access
- Dictionary and other resources

Assignment Instructions

For this project, you are expected to submit one thing:

1. a written response.

Step 1: Prepare for the project.

- a) Read through the guide before you begin so you know the expectations for this project.
- b) If there is anything that is not clear to you, be sure to ask your teacher.

Step 2: Plan to memorize and recite a speech.

- a) Choose a speech that appeals to you.
- b) Read the speech all the way through.
- c) Determine the meaning and pronunciation of each word used in the speech. Consult a dictionary or ask your teacher for help finding additional resources.

Student Guide

- d) Summarize the central ideas of the speech and determine the speech's mood. Your understanding of the speech will affect your speaking style.

Step 3: Memorize a speech.

- a) Choose the strategy you will use to memorize the speech. Common methods include reading aloud, writing it out, breaking it into small chunks, or listening to an audio recording.
- b) Use your chosen strategy to practice until you learn the entire speech.
- c) Analyze the structure of the speech to help you decide where to include pauses and how to pace yourself. Punctuation and the placement of lines are also important to include in your memorization, so you know when to speed up, slow down, and when to stop to breathe.
- d) Make sure you have memorized both the words and the pacing of the speech and can recite the whole speech from memory.

Step 4: Recite the speech in front of a group.

- a) Speak clearly. Articulate each word using an appropriate volume, rate of speech, and tone of voice. Use a tone that helps the audience understand the meaning of the speech.
- b) Keep a steady pace that matches the intended pace of the speech.
- c) Keep natural eye contact as you speak.
- d) Stand up straight.
- e) Use appropriate body language. An occasional gesture is fine, but you don't want to draw attention away from the speech.
- f) Stay relaxed. The more you enjoy yourself, the more your audience will enjoy your recitation.

Step 5: Reflect on the performance by preparing a written response that evaluates your performance.

- a) Using a word-processing program, write two to three paragraphs that evaluate your performance.
- b) Include responses to these questions in your evaluation:
 - i. What did you do to prepare in advance for reciting the speech? How well prepared were you?
 - ii. How well did you memorize the speech? What strategies did you use for memorizing? Did you forget any of the words? How accurate was your recitation?
 - iii. Did you speak at a pace and volume appropriate to the speech and audience?
 - iv. How successful were you at communicating the meaning of the speech by using your tone of voice, structure, and rhythm?
 - v. Did you present yourself well, using good posture and confident appearance?

Student Guide

- vi. How did you use eye contact, the volume of your voice, or other means to connect with others during the speech?
- vii. How did the audience respond to the speech and your recitation?
- viii. Did you enjoy your performance?

Step 6: Evaluate your project using this checklist.

If you can check each box below, you are ready to submit your project.

- ☒ Did you memorize the speech using one of the strategies suggested?
- ☒ Did you analyze the structure and pacing of the speech?
- ☒ Did you speak at a pace and volume appropriate to the speech and audience?
- ☒ Were you successful at communicating the meaning of the speech by using your tone of voice, volume, and pace?
- ☒ Did you reflect on your performance by preparing a written response?
- ☒ Does your written response reflect the answers to all the questions in Step 5?

Step 7: Revise and submit your project.

- a) If you were unable to check off all the requirements on the checklist, go back and make sure that your project is complete.
- b) Submit your response.
- c) Congratulations on completing your speech recitation and evaluation!