

## Demonstrative Speeches

Demonstration speeches are sometimes referred to as "process" or "how to" speeches because they often entail demonstrating something. These speeches require you to provide steps that will help your audience understand how to accomplish a specific task or process.

However, "how to" speeches can be tricky in that there are rarely universally agreed upon (i.e. irrefutable) ways to do anything. If your professor asked the students in his or her public speaking class to each bring in a recipe for baking chocolate chip cookies, would all of them be the exact same recipe? Probably not, but they would all be similar and, most importantly, they would all give you chocolate chip cookies as the end result. Students giving a demonstration speech will want to avoid saying "You should bake the cookies for 12 minutes" since that is not how everyone does it. Instead, the student should say something like:

"You can bake the cookies for 10 minutes."

"One option is to bake the cookies for 10 minutes."

"This particular recipe calls for the cookies to be baked for 10 minutes."

Each of the previous three statements is absolutely a fact that no one can argue or disagree with. While some people may say 12 minutes is too long or too short (depending on how soft or hard they like their cookies), no one can reasonably argue that these statements are not true.

## Flow of Demonstrative speeches

**Your Purpose** - Determine the specific purpose of your speech topics. State it in one simple sentence. For example: I want to demonstrate how to \_\_\_\_ .

**Your Central Idea** - Determine the central idea of your demonstration speech text. In other words: a clear demonstration speech topic statement. Describe what your demo presentation is about and why you want to share it.

**How to Introduce Your Demonstration Speech Topics** - Once you have decided on a demonstration speech topic, write an attractive, effective and interactive attention getting introduction. Think about these sample introductions:

- ☐ Tell them what you are going to teach them.
- ☐ Tell them why you choose to demonstrate this topic.
- ☐ Then tell them why your listeners should know how to do it.
- ☐ Tell them that they are going to do it themselves in a couple of minutes and that the only thing your audience has to do is follow your instructions.

**Your Demonstrative Speech Topics Outline** - You've picked out a good demonstration speech topic? Present and demonstrate it to your listeners step by step.

- ☐ So, outline the steps of your topic.
- ☐ Show the activities or moves you have to make in a logical chronological order.

- ☐ Describe the details.
- ☐ Be clear. Don't think the audience will understand your demonstration speech topics immediately.
- ☐ Conclude each step.
- ☐ Do the demonstration process topic checks on the main points before you jump to the next step of this demonstrational speech topics tutorial.

### Delivery Of Your Demonstration Speech Topics

First and for all: think about the rules and time limit of the public speaking assignment.

Apply these eight public speaking speech tips for delivering your demonstration speech topics:

1. Visual aids, like objects, actual items, models or drawings can help you.
2. Include personal stories and examples to illustrate your topics for a demonstrative speech.
3. Provide each audience member materials and ingredients to practice with.
4. Insure everyone is participating.
5. Look around you and see if your audience is following you.
6. Ask yourself if someone in the audience has to assist with your demonstration.
7. Close your speech with a memorable summary or with a clear call to action.
8. Ask if there are any questions about your demonstrative speech topic ideas.

## Elements of an Excellent Demonstration Speech

You will prepare a 4 to 5 minute speech showing the audience how to do something. The speech must include visual aids. Your topic must be appropriate for your audience. You topic must be approved.

**I. Nature of a Demonstration Speech:** In a demonstration speech, you inform your audience by showing them...

1. How to make something (e.g., food; crafts; household decorations; technological gear);
2. How to complete a process (e.g., playing a game or sport, or inspecting, maintaining, or repairing something); or
3. How something works (e.g., part of a car; a machine; computer software)

**II. Selecting a Topic:** It's best to choose something which...

1. You know well
2. Can be shown within reliable time boundaries

3. Isn't highly technical and doesn't include too many steps
4. Can easily be shown to a large group
5. Will expand listeners' knowledge

### **III. Organization:**

1. Organize the body of your speech into 2-5 main points which correspond to parts of your process- -rather than in a long series of steps
2. Provide clear "signposts" for each main step in the process

### **IV. Preparation:**

1. Arrange and test any AV equipment beforehand
2. Practice repeatedly so you can handle items easily
3. Lay everything out ahead of time and make sure the entire audience can see your work area

### **V. Presentation:**

1. Be as clear as possible; use simple language; explain jargon; define acronyms
2. Use easy-to-follow, step-by-step processes, and large, visible visuals

C. Avoid obstructions; make sure everyone in the room can see you without having to strain

4. Speak at a pace which your audience can easily follow, keeping in mind that you may be

introducing them to terms and concepts which are new to them

5. Speak to your audience rather than to your objects, using the T-T-T method (touch/turn/talk);

maintain eye contact

### **VI. Momentum**

1. Talk while you demonstrate; avoid "dead air time"
2. Be prepared to add extra commentary if part of your process takes longer than expected (e.g., if

something you're stirring doesn't thicken quickly)

3. If what you're demonstrating normally takes more than 5 minutes, go through just enough steps to

give the idea, then show the finished product

4. Pass out handouts before or after your speech unless people really need to read or see something

in writing during the presentation itself

5. If you'll be using a volunteer or needing a helper with equipment, identify that person up ahead of

time

## **VII. After your presentation:**

1. Be prepared to answer any questions
2. Quickly clear your items away so the next speaker can get ready

## **Speech Tips**

A Demonstrative Speech is one in which you will demonstrate to your audience how to do something. It is easiest to decide on a topic if you start with a verb, such as:

- How to Do something
- How to Make something
- How to Fix something
- How something Works

Other tips:

- Think of anything that you are good at or have a lot of practice with, as it will be easier to break down the steps when you are very familiar with your actions.
- You will also want to consider the limitations of your location, your audience, and your time. For example, it would not be possible to cook a meal for your classmates as you would not have access to a kitchen or enough time.
- It would, however, be possible to demonstrate decorating cookies as you would not need a kitchen and you can take as much or as little time as you are allowed.

## **SAMPLE DEMONSTRATIVE SPEECH OUTLINE**

### **SPEECH TOPIC**

What your demonstrative speech is about, the theme or subject of your talk.

### **GENERAL PURPOSE**

To demonstrate a process and give the audience information while using visual aids. Or to show how to do something, how something is done, how to make something, or how something works.

### **SPECIFIC PURPOSE OR PURPOSE STATEMENT**

This purpose statement is to clearly state your specific goal or purpose. To persuade that ... or to inform on ... Speech outline sample: The purpose of this demonstration speech is to persuade my audience how to pack light for an international backpacking travel trip.

### **AUDIENCE ANALYSIS**

Ask yourself: Which of your choices have enough potential to offer your audience valuable information?

Therefore analyze your audience. Especially for demonstration speech topics:

- ☐ Who are they - demographics?
- ☐ What are their interests?
- ☐ What do they like?
- ☐ What are their needs?

### **CENTRAL IDEA OR THESIS STATEMENT**

In the thesis statement you describe in one sentence your purpose and speech topic. In our example: Packing light for an international trip will mean freedom.

### **THE SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

List here in the demonstrative speech outline your sources, bibliography and possible visual aids. In our example: Backpack and supplies

#### **Get the Attention**

Start with a statement that catches the attention of the listeners immediately. For example: Pack and then remove half!

#### **How to Greet Them**

If they don't know who you are, and you are not being introduced, then you have to introduce yourself at this point in your presentation. And tell why you are the best person to give this demonstration speech.

#### **Preview the Main Points**

Introduce in one sentence the main topics of your demonstrative speech.

#### **Tell What's In It for Them**

State why your presentation is useful to your listeners. Offer a benefit. Example: Packing light for an international trip will mean flexibility and can avoid wrinkled clothes.

### **BODY SECTION**

#### **Main Point I**

What props, examples, quotes, statistics, reasons, arguments, evidence, visuals can support your main points? Use them to construct your subpoints.

- Subpoint 1
- Subpoint 2
- Subpoint 3

#### **Main Point II**

- Subpoint 1
- Subpoint 2
- Subpoint 3

### Main Point III

- Subpoint 1
- Subpoint 2
- Subpoint 3

### CONCLUSION

Summary	Recap the main points, steps or action sequences.
Closer	Try to find a original sentence or eye-opener to help the audience remember your demonstrative speech.

Don't forget to use transition sentences, word and phrases. Help your listeners to hop fluently from the introduction text to the body part, and from the body to the concluding part of this demonstrative speech outline.

## 50+ Topics and Ideas

Use this list of demonstrative speech topics to develop your own topics for a demonstrative speech. It can be anything you like. Start with one of these example phrases for setting up demonstrative ideas first:

- ☐ How To Make ...
- ☐ How To Fix ...
- ☐ How To Use ...
- ☐ How To Do ...
- ☐ How ... Works
- ☐ How ... Is Done, Produced or Made

And try it with other verbs. Like the demonstration speech topics below. Just vary and tweak.

How:

to cook a pie - or what ever you like to cook :-)  
to tie a tie  
to be a vegetarian  
to fix a flat tire  
to create a Halloween mask  
to clean your car  
to play piano  
to change a bank cheque  
to dress like a princess  
to play a computer game  
to make a cocktail  
to taste wine  
to organize a surprise party  
to print a digital photo  
to eat oysters  
to register for voting  
to make Irish Coffee  
to read music notes  
to learn playing guitar  
to use your breath when you sing  
to make beer  
to bottle your own wine

to become a princess  
to make your garden full of flowers year  
around to build a good web site :-)  
to clean your swimming pool  
to clean your golf clubs  
to make a fast summer salad  
to make a new candle of old ones  
to make your own wedding dress  
to organize your wedding  
to make a water-colour  
to build a shed  
to find demonstration speech topics  
to prevent injury  
to develop the best serve in a tennis game  
to knot a carpet  
to stop thinking  
to speak italian  
to become a good actress  
to become a famous filmstar  
to write a filmscript  
to write a business-like letter  
to make honey

to blow a glass  
to train your brains  
to dry your hair  
to greet japanese people  
to use the cruise control  
to make a genealogical tree  
to start a bed & breakfast  
to become a policeman  
to climb a building  
to make a dancing show

to make ice  
to become the president  
to be in the chair in a meeting  
to make a sweet dessert  
to snow board  
to board in sand  
to wrinkle a skirt  
to calculate your golf handicap  
to make a golf swing - or demonstration speech  
topics related to your favorite sports

And so on ...

Another way of inventing demonstration speech topics is by associating. Look at the general categories and themes below.

Food and Drink, Household, Sports, Recreation, Health & Beauty, Home Improvement, Decoration, Cars, Government Science, Nature, College Games, Culture, Tires and SuspensionTrademarks, Travel Packing, Acne, Building Treehouses, Vaccines, Vacuum Cleaners, Valentines Day Dating, Vanishing Tricks, Ventilation Systems, Video Game Consoles, Making Home Videos, Volleyball Techniques, Warm Ups and Stretching Training Methods, Water Polo Rules, Wind Turbines, Tasting Wine Vintages, Woodworking, How to Write a Testimonial About Yourself, Sales Elevator Pitches, Yoga Programs ... Et cetera.

## **TASK**

Can you come up with any good [how to](#), [technical](#) or [demonstrative](#) speech ideas?

Think of any process from your field and fill the given outline for demonstrative speech on the next page.

## **SAMPLE DEMONSTRATIVE SPEECH OUTLINE**

**SPEECH TOPIC**

**GENERAL PURPOSE**

**SPECIFIC PURPOSE OR  
PURPOSE STATEMENT**

**AUDIENCE ANALYSIS**

**CENTRAL IDEA OR THESIS  
STATEMENT**

**THE SUPPORTING  
MATERIALS**



Get the Attention

How to Greet Them

Preview the Main Points

Tell What's In It for Them

## **BODY SECTION**

Main Point I

Subpoint 1

Subpoint 2

Subpoint 3

Main Point II

Subpoint 1

Subpoint 2

Subpoint 3

Main Point III

Subpoint 1

Subpoint 2

Subpoint 3

## **CONCLUSION**

Summary

Closer

## DEMONSTRATIVE SPEECHES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Demonstrative speeches are speeches in which the aim of the speaker is to demonstrate

- A process
- How an activity/task is done
- How to use a given object or a thing

For projects given in different courses, students are required to give a demonstrative speech (Also called a presentation without a slide show) in front of the teachers. Following steps are involved in planning a demonstrative speech:

1. Determine the speech purpose: The first most important thing is to understand your aim behind speaking. Usually, there can be two major aims: TO INFORM and TO PERSUADE.
2. Analyze audience: Remember that your audience will be lecturers, professors, or clients.
3. Context analysis: The situation and domain of communication will be formal.
4. Planning your speech: First brainstorm, and jot down all the steps involved in a process, all the steps one needs to follow when performing a task, and all the key instructions and guidelines about how to use something. The idea is to break down the subject into many parts. Explain each part separately.
5. Organizing information: Organize everything into a clear pattern which will naturally lead to the completion of the task or process.
6. Visual aid: Use charts, videos, objects, or anything else that can help you demonstrate and explain everything effectively.

For example, in a demonstrative speech on the project “Developing a Game”, your teacher will expect you to achieve the following objectives and address the given issues:

- To inform about the game
- Explain why you chose this type of a game.
- To demonstrate how the game will be used/ operated?
- What are the different functions?
- How can these functions be performed? You will have to give a demo and explain.
- What techniques (algorithms) did you use and why? Justify your choices.
- How can your game serve the society?
- What type of impact will your game have on the human personality and psychology?
- What are the future implications of your game?
- Where do you see it in the future?

In your speech, you will carry out two goals: Inform with demo and persuade the teacher in favor of your choices and vision. You can address each question one by one in an organized fashion. Same questions and issues are to be addressed in other such projects as well.