

WHY “SPEAKING” IS SO MUCH FUN FOR ME!

Here is my story.... I was born in the big city of Brooklyn, New York and found my way to the small, quiet, and quaint town of Oxford, North Carolina, a place I am extremely proud to call home! I moved to Oxford more than forty years ago and today love traveling back home to absorb the quiet peacefulness that still exists in a town surrounded by larger cities like Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill.

As a little girl I had a dream. What was that dream one may ask? That dream was to speak to as many people as possible around the world. This is the dream that was given to me as a young girl. I spoke at church, school, community events, and pretty much any other location that was designated, as often as possible. It was my passion, and although I was nervous this did not prevent me from doing my best and giving to the audience what I had practiced over and over until I could almost recite from memory, my message. Please do not be confused, I was challenged but always felt comfortable because I believed I was living my purpose.

I naturally gravitated to people and although I am not an extrovert as most who have met me would believe, I always felt safe and comfortable speaking and interacting in large groups. Interestingly, I function best as an introvert but find myself at events functioning more as a “metrovert” - somewhere in between an extrovert and introvert. I am the one who will sit quietly until I am approached but after that the conversation is on!

I became an educator, I believe because I could talk, liked to talk and as some would say, would “not stop talking”! I was great as an educator because talking was my strength. I could stand before a group of students and “spill my guts” as the old saying goes, about the course content for the day, life experiences and why education was so important. I enjoyed demonstrating this very important skill in the public schools of North Carolina, at the Universities of Penn State and Texas A&M, to school districts in Mississippi, South Carolina, Illinois, and Indiana, at conferences, board meetings, workshops and business meetings as well as at international events in Guinea and Namibia, Africa.

Speaking came naturally to me and once I started I was in my element - doing what I enjoyed most in life, imparting knowledge to others! I even joined a speaking organization, Toastmasters, to enhance my speaking skills. Therefore, no matter what the dream may be it is necessary to stay FOCUSED in order to achieve that dream. I firmly believe that what we focus on, is what we will see, work towards and achieve!

These following seven qualifications permitted me to achieve my dreams and can do the same for you. Remember that no matter what goals you hope to accomplish, it is imperative that you stay **FOCUSED**.

Foundation

Obstacles

Consistency

Understanding

Spirituality

Education

Desire

You must have a **Foundation** on which to stand, to believe all things are possible;

You must prepare for the **Obstacles** you will endure;

You must **Consistently** do the work;

You must be **Understanding** of life, to navigate this massive world;

You must let **Spirituality** guide you through the nuances of life;

You must get an **Education** to open doors along the way;

and You must have the **Desire** to achieve, to keep you going when you feel like quitting!

Dr. E. Bobbitt