Table Topic Speaker

* Stay informed.
* Expand your repository of topics.
* Reflect on the week's theme.

Before the meeting:

1. In general, the Table Topics Master should be creating questions that are related to the week’s theme. So, as a table topics Speaker, spend a mere five or ten minutes reflecting on the week’s theme. Try to recall an anecdote, a quote, or a story that’s related and you may find that you are able to tie it into your response.
2. It also helps to stay informed and create a repository of topics. You can do this by reading articles, magazines, books, listening to the radio, watching TV, and staying updated on the latest events. For your repository, subjects you’d be comfortable speaking about, try to expand them and incorporate them into your table topics whenever it’s appropriate.

Responding to Table Topics:

1. A good response should be structured like a speech, with a beginning, middle, and end.
2. For the introduction, acknowledge the Table Topics Master and the audience and repeat the question at the beginning and at the end. This serves three purposes. First, it gives you a little more time to think, organize, and phrase your answer to the question. Second, it serves as a smooth transition. And finally, it helps you stay focused and it will make your response seem more focused.
3. In the body, support your original statement by giving examples, drawing on anecdotes, recalling something you saw or read.
4. For the conclusion, repeat the question, repeat your statement, and briefly restate your reasons.

Drawing a blank:

1. If your mind’s drawing a blank, and the Table Topics Master isn’t prompting you with questions, assume the role of the Table Topics Master and ask yourself some questions that are related to the subject. Try to keep talking in some way, but don’t prattle. Perhaps you could describe what’s going on in your mind right now, or try to tie it into a subject you are more comfortable speaking about. The key is to improvise and carry on.