

Speech #1: Coat of Arms

PURPOSE: The purpose of this speech is to give you an opportunity to begin speaking to the class. In addition, you will tell us about yourself by showing us your own personal "coat of arms" that you design yourself. Include **three** symbols that represent you. Each symbol should help us to understand the people, activities, and perhaps the values you think are important. Possible symbols you might use could represent:

- a family member or friend (notable memory, etc.)
- your hometown (what it is known for, what people do there)
- a memorable experience you have had (vacation, concert, evening out, day at work, etc.)
- a recent accomplishment
- a challenge or tragedy you have faced
- a hobby, skill, or talent you possess

In each case you should tell us in what way your family, hometown, some experience, hobby, or accomplishment (etc.) tells us something about you. How does this person, place, or experience help us to understand you better? Ideally, focus on one day or event rather than weeks or years of time to illustrate points. Include details: the actions and dialog of people involved in an event, particular images, sounds, or smells which help us "see" a place, thoughts and feelings you had during a moment of accomplishment or challenge.

Also consider how the three symbols might be tied together with a unifying theme, idea, or value. This theme should help serve as an introduction and conclusion of the speech and give it a sense of wholeness.

Length: Four Minutes. You will have a grace period of 30 seconds either way of the time limit. After you reach 4 min. 30 sec., you will be asked to stop speaking. You should spend time developing your supporting materials, planning the speech, and rehearsing it out loud.

EVALUATION: You will be evaluated on the following elements -

Introduction: did the opening sentence engage audience interest; was the theme stated clearly; was there a clear preview of the main points?

Organization: were the main points clear; were the main points logically organized; were the main points related to the theme; were the transitions between main points smooth; were supporting details pertinent?

Conclusion: was the significance of the theme emphasized or maintained; was a sense of closure conveyed?

Delivery: did the speaker maintain eye contact; did the speaker vary her/his volume and pitch; was the speaking rate appropriate (not too slow or fast); was the speaker's volume appropriate; were the speaker's stance and movement appropriate; did the speaker avoid vocal distractions (er, um, ah, etc.); did the speaker have adequate enthusiasm?

Did the speech show adequate preparation?

Were notes used effectively?

Was a visual aid used effectively (not too small or light)?

Was the speech within time limits?