

Language Assignment - DEMONSTRATION SPEECHES

Due January 28-February 8, 2008

Assignment Description:

You will give a 3-5 minute oral presentation in front of the class, during which you will explain and demonstrate how to do something. You will be allowed to use 3 x 5 note cards. The speeches will be videotaped.

Timetable:

- **Wednesday, January 23** - Turn in your **demonstration speech information form**. Get your topic okayed by me.
 - The speeches will begin on **Monday, January 28**. I will schedule your speech when you turn in your information form on January 23. If you aren't ready on your assigned day, your grade will go down one letter grade for each day it's late.
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Grading Criteria - You will be graded on:

General Considerations

- Being ready on time.
- Length. If your demonstration speech takes less than 3 or more than 5 minutes, it will lower your grade.
- How well prepared you are. **EVERYONE SHOULD PRACTICE THEIR SPEECHES AT HOME IN FRONT OF A LIVE AUDIENCE.**

Oral Language

- Communication skills - how clearly you explain things
- English grammar - Not only should you use proper grammar, but should avoid using unnecessary words, such as "like" (when it's, like, not necessary.)

- Eye contact
- Posture
- Ums and ers - If you say "um" (or "er", "uh", etc.) too often it will lower your grade.

Interest

- How interesting the demonstration speech is.
 - Lack of dead time - time during the demonstration speech when nothing of interest is happening.
 - Extras - interesting visual aids, special (appropriate) dress, style, etc.
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Possible Topics:

A good topic should be something that isn't too difficult, or too easy. For instance, how to play chess would be way too difficult for a 5-minute demonstration. How to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich might be too easy, and it would probably not be very interesting.

Suggestions:

- Cooking demonstrations
 - Simple arts and crafts
 - Paper folding
 - How to wrap a present
 - How to tune a guitar
 - How to hit a golf ball.
 - How to do a skateboard trick.
 - How to fix a flat tire on a bicycle
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Other Considerations:

For those who want to cook:

- I will have a hot plate available. **Parents**, please make sure your child is competent, and not likely to burn him or herself. We won't be using an oven.
- Consider doing what they do on a cooking show - prepare the dish at home and have a finished product ready to show us.
- Watching someone measure out items, or watching them stir something for more than a few seconds is boring. Have most or all of your ingredients measured out beforehand. Instead of stirring something for 2 minutes, have a batch already stirred that you can show us. Doing it this way will likely mean that you will have to have enough ingredients for 2 or 3 batches - one batch you put together on the spot, perhaps another one that's already

mixed, that you can use to show us another step in the process, and possibly a third batch that you make it home so you will have a finished product. Bear these things in mind when you choose what you want to cook. You might think of a different dish that doesn't present as many difficulties.

- Consider having copies of your recipe prepared to hand out at the end.

Others:

- Consider whether you can do your speech in the classroom, or if we will have to go outside.
- If your speech involves any special equipment, make sure you discuss it with me first. **NO OPEN FLAMES!**
- If you need an assistant, discuss it with me first.

