

From Topic to Speech:

A Workshop on Crafting Your Next Speech



District 96
Public Speaking Curriculum

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Speech Structure

Photo: Chris Lilley ©

Building a structure

This module will help you...

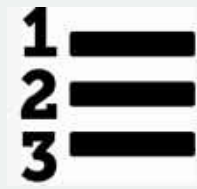
- Describe why it's important to:
 - Identify speech elements
 - Choose a logical order to structure those elements
 - Select transitions through the structure
- Develop a sensible structure for your speech



Here are a few elements you might use



Questions



Lists



Examples



Opinions



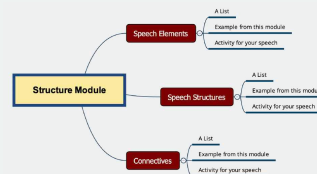
Quotations



Facts & Figures



Activities



Graphical
Elements



Emotions



Vivid
Descriptions



Declarations



Ideas



Abstract
Concepts



Stories



Humour

This module has many individual elements

**Introduction
Objectives**

For example, this module has:

- Facts & Figures
- Abstract concepts
- Examples
- Graphical elements
- Three body sections
- Activities

**Recap Objectives
Conclusion**

Activity: Identify key elements of your speech

Purpose	On your Module 3 worksheet, decide what speech elements would be effective to convey the major points of your speech.
Process	<p>In question 3.1, review the example speech elements (or come up with some of your own), and write out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How you might express the primary points in your speech (just the names at this point),2. How you might express some of the secondary points if you know what they are,3. Notice the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. What types of elements do you have?b. How well does each one support your purpose?c. How will it connect with your audience?
Product	A list of the primary and potential secondary elements in your speech.
Post-activity debrief	Describe what types of elements you have and how they tie back to your purpose.

The 'best' speech structure...depends

- Chronological order or step-by-step sequence
- Spatial sequence
- Perspectives of different groups
- Topical sequences (sorted where appropriate)
- Paired/Triplet sequences

This module's body nests topical structures

Structure Module

Activity: Classify/structure speech elements

Purpose	On your Module 3 worksheet, review options to structure the elements of your speech so they flow in a logical order.
Process	<p>In question 3.2, review the different approaches available to sequence your speech:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Start by ordering the main points into a logical flow, there may be several options to choose from,2. Review the minor points within the main sections, and decide whether or not to use a specific sequence for those, too.
Product	Each participant will have a draft sequence for at least the major points of their speech.
Post-activity debrief	One person from each group will share the structure they selected.

Transitions help smooth the flow of ideas

- Internal preview or summary
- Signposts—explicit numbering or labeling
- Explicit transitions
- Implicit transitions
- Pause

What transitions did this module use?

- Internal preview
- Internal summary (to come)
- Explicit transitions
- Pauses

Activity: Select your transitions

Purpose	On your Module 3 worksheet, review options to connect the major transition points of your speech.
Process	<p>In question 3.3, consider the major transitions from one topic to the next in your speech:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Consider how you can connect from one major section to the next, especially when you change topics, so you maintain audience connection,2. Look for any more abrupt changes in topic, and write out ideas for how you can maintain a flow the audience can follow easily.
Product	You will have identified how to manage the flow in your speech where you need intentional transitions.
Post-activity debrief	Describe the types of transitions you have and how you plan to handle them.

*“Learn the rules like a pro,
so you can break them like
an artist.”*

—Pablo Picasso



Picasso, self-portrait, 1966

Building a structure

Reflect on how *you* can...

- Describe why it's important to:
 - Identify speech elements
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...please share one takeaway in the chat



What questions are you sitting on?

