

Starting an Original Oratory

Answer as many of these questions as detailed as you can. Don't be afraid to answer in a way that seems silly to you. Even if the answer is 'television' or 'roller coasters;' just answer honestly and don't worry about thinking your answer is silly. In speech and debate we can work with silly.

What do I know a lot about?

What am I passionate about or care about?

What kind of change do I want to see in the world?

What do I think people should know more about?

What makes me happy?

What makes me sad?

Do I have a life philosophy or special quotation that has a lot of meaning to my life?

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The Beginning.

Vague topic: _____

What is it?

Who does it/should it affect?

Where is it applicable?

When did this/will this begin being a problem/awesome thing/something worth noticing?

Why should people care? Why do I care?

What makes it interesting?

How can people become better by learning about this?

After hearing a speech on this, what is it people should walk away having learned/feeling?

Now go back through this page with a highlighter. What are the important aspects of this paper that you feel people should feel?

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Basic Outline

AGD (attention getting device) - this is where you 'hook' people into your speech, where you bring them in and grab their attention. This can be a cool quotation, a story, a compelling statistic, whatever. Even though this comes at the beginning of your speech often it comes at the end of the speech writing process. See where your speech goes, and as you research, pay attention to things that might fit here.

Significance line - why should people care about this topic, what makes it significant?

Credibility - add a citation within the first minute of your speech - which source/information are you going to start with?

Preview statement - this is where you tell people what you're going to talk about. Write this after you know what your contentions will be.

Organize your thoughts into main contentions. (Three is the basic setup, but more or less is okay.)

Contention One:

Contention Two:

Contention Three:

Review Statement - this is the preview statement in past tense. There is a quotation by Milton Burrell that sums up all great speeches. 'Tell people what you're going to tell them, tell them, and then tell them what you just told them.' On average, humans need to hear something three times in order for it to convert from short term to long term memory. Good speech writers know this.

Conclusion: sum up your main take away

AGD tie in. Close your speech the way you begin it.