

# Personal Experience Speech

What makes you who you are? What experiences, events, people you've met, or memories stand out in your mind? What about these experiences make them exciting, memorable, or significant?

---

**The Speech:** In a 3-5 minute speech, describe a significant life event that made you who you are today. Describe the event in detail, perhaps chronologically, and thoroughly so the audience can clearly picture the event. From this event, clearly described why or how it made you who you are today (a lesson learned or an experience gained..)

Your speech should answer the question: What personal experience has taught you about who you are and what is that lesson learned?

---

## How We'll Get There:

1. Brainstorm Ideas for speech
2. Choose stories
3. Outline Ideas into a chronological order
4. Turn Outline into a Rough Draft
5. Peer Edit
6. Turn Rough Draft/Edits into a Final Copy
7. Turn Final Copy into Speech

## What To Turn In:

1. Brainstorm sheet of potential ideas
2. Rough Draft Outline
3. Full Sentence Final Draft Outline
  - a. Typed, 12 pt. font
  - b. MLA Format
4. Speaking Outline

## Hot Tips:

1. You may have one or more than one events, make sure you can fill 3-5 minutes.
2. Choose life events that you can openly talk about, and are comfortable for you to share and others to listen to.
3. Choose a topic that isn't too emotional....we don't want tears when you speak.
4. Make sure if you have more than one story there are cohesive links between stories.
5. Put your own voice in these stories...they are yours...they should sound like YOU!
6. Practice. Practice. Practice...whether it's in front of your friends, family, mirror, or stuffed animals the more you say it the easier it will be.

## Practice. Practice. Practice. A Checklist.

---

Here's a list of things to make sure you either have or are doing while you speak.

- \_\_\_ Written Speech: Strong imagery, transitions, grammar, lessons learned
- \_\_\_ Time Length: 3-5 minutes
- \_\_\_ Introduction: Strong attention-getting device, implied thesis, and link
- \_\_\_ Body: Strong, detailed stories, with transitions, personal voice evident
- \_\_\_ Conclusion: Lessons learned, left audience with clear picture of who you are
- \_\_\_ Eye Contact: Made clear, strong, and held eye contact with audience, made only a few references to notecards
- \_\_\_ Voice: Loud, clear voice with variety in pitch, appropriate rate, few pauses
- \_\_\_ Gestures: natural, meaningful gestures, no fidgeting
- \_\_\_ Body Movement: grounded body posture with a confident stance
- \_\_\_ Language: Appropriate language choice free of slang expressions
- \_\_\_ Connection with Audience: Stories pulled audiences in and stories were told with passion and enthusiasm