

Lesson 6 HOW TO DELIVER YOUR SPEECH?

After memorizing your speech, you are now ready to take the stage. But, how do you do it? Here's how, just follow the step by step guide below.

Step 1: Entrance

When delivering a speech, entrance is the most important thing to consider because it's your first projection of yourself and how the audience see you depends on how you appear for the first time. It will also affect the way you deliver your speech and its wholeness.

Here are two possible scenarios, you may experience.

1. If you are coming from the backstage, stand up straight, chin in, walk straight to the podium or lectern while eyes are in the audience.
2. If you are coming from the front row, stand up straight, chin in, walk straight with eyes on your path; be careful with those steps going up the stage. Upon reaching the stage, look at the audience and continue your walk towards the lectern.

Alright, you're on the stage now, what then?

Upon reaching the stage, here are possible scenarios again.

1. If you are in a speech competition, upon reaching the stage, do not hide on the lectern as many are doing. Instead, get off the lectern and show yourself on the center stage.
2. If you are in a formal event wherein you must deliver a prepared speech, there are things you can do. First, stand behind the lectern while you deliver your speech and the second, you can stand on the center stage.

Step 2: Beginning your speech

Whatever manner you choose to deliver your speech, here is how you should begin.

Upon reaching the center stage or lectern, do not talk right away. I say again, do not talk right away.

Look at your LEFT, RIGHT, MIDDLE, BREATHE, STEP FORWARD with balance weight on both of your legs. Then begin!

I call that the LRMB method which means Left – Right – Middle – Breathe and then begin.

Avoid the following expressions when you begin your speech, you can begin exactly on how you wrote your greetings and introduction but avoid the following expressions below.

1. *Hello everyone, my topic is about...*
2. *Now, let's begin!*

Instead, you can begin by saying a short saying, a quotation or a usual greeting like “Good Morning!” Or others that you think most appropriate.

Begin your first word with a powerful voice or with command. How? Speak loudly and clearly that the last person at the back could hear you.

Don't worry about those people staring at you. Just deliver your speech and they will surely love you as long as you know your line, you have nothing to worry about.

Deliver your speech from start to finish, remember that you have memorized all your lines in the past 7 days and you are now confident about it.

Make sure to speak loudly and clearly, don't rush trying to finish your speech right away. Enjoy your moment on the stage.

Step 3: Ending your speech

The way you close your speech is as crucial as the introduction. Avoid the expression “**That’s all**” simply say Thank You” and that’s it! No more, no less. Just like that!

After saying “Thank you”, don’t say anything even if you forgot something to say. It won’t matter anyway. The audience has already closed their ears and everything that you say does not have an effect on them. Save it to the next speech instead.

Step 4: Do not apologize

Once you stand in front of an audience, you become the authority in your topic. One BIG MISTAKE that most speakers do is apologizing after they got on the stage.

No matter what kind of speech you are delivering, whether you are speaking in a corporate meeting, business presentation, speech competition or any formal speaking engagement, **NEVER** apologize about anything.

For example, many speakers tend to say sorry because they are too nervous meeting the people they are speaking with for the first time. The effect, the audience will not be very happy and confident about your speech and end up cheering you up to finish your speech and you’ll get applause of finishing your speech instead of presenting your ideas.

This is not a very good way to convince people, especially if you are presenting a product to customers.

Remember, **NEVER APOLOGIZE** when delivering your speech even if you are too nervous to speak in front of an audience.

Great, you are now ready. While delivering your speech, how should you behave on the stage? We’ll talk about that in the next lesson.