

Impromptu Speaking Cheat Sheet

by ruthsong via cheatography.com/27810/cs/8145/

IMPROMPTU OVERVIEW

TIMING

Preparation: 5 mins [can use laptop] **Speaking**: 1.5-3 mins [palm-sized cue card]

- 1. Start with an attention grabber
- 2. State your topic and explain what it means
- 3. State your first point + evidence
- 4. Start your conclusion [at 2:00 latest]
- 3b. State your third point + evidence [optional]
- 3a. State your second point + evidence [optional]
- 5. Say "Thank You" and leave the stage

PRE-SPEECH: STEP 1

What do you understand about the topic? Summarise in a short phrase.

Examples:

Competition is necessary

Love conquers all

Practice makes perfect

Singapore needs foreign talent

PRE-SPEECH: STEP 2

What do you know about the topic?

Can you write down 1 - 3 main points that you can talk about?

Do you need to do research?

Do you need to define any terms in the question?

PRE-SPEECH: STEP 3

What speech structure will you use? Choose 1 below

PREP - Position, Reason, Evidence, Position

PSC - Point, Support, Conclusion

PPF - Past, Present, Future

Additional: Pros & Cons, Compare & Contrast, Situation/Action/Result



By **ruthsong** cheatography.com/ruthsong/

WRITE THE SPEECH: STEP 1

Start your speech with 1 attention grabber

PROP - Choose 1 item that can symbolise the meaning of your topic

QUESTION - Wait for the audience to give you a response

QUOTATION - Use the quotation given or another relevant quotation

STORY - Choose a relevant story to engage the audience

STATISTICS - to shock or demystify a topic

WRITE THE SPEECH: STEP 2

What is the content of your speech?

What do you feel about this topic? Why do you feel this way?

What **evidence** do you have to support your point?

Personal experience

Other stories

General knowledge

Statistics

WRITE THE SPEECH: STEP 3

Summarise the points you made in your speech

[OPTIONAL] Include one of the following [make sure it is relevant!]

- **1. Quotation** (same one or another relevant one) or
- 2. Story (to summarise your speech) or
- 3. Inspirational message or

Examples:

Failure is the mother of success

Accept each other's differences

Friends are important, treasure them

4. Call to action

Examples:

Spend more time with your family Smile at the next stranger you meet Stop working too hard

Say "Thank You" and leave the stage

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IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY

QUOTATION - Who is the author?
What is/was he/she famous for?
Why would he/she say such a quote?
How does the meaning of the quote apply to your career / life / relationships?

POLITICS / BUSINESS - Has there been a similar situation(s) that happened in your CCA / workplace?

SOCIAL / CURRENT - Imagine it is happening to you right now. What would you do / not do? How will it impact you now and in the future?

SPEECH DELIVERY

Don't show your nervousness onstage - Relax yourself offstage

Take relaxing deep breaths until you feel steadier

Smile naturally as you begin - try to keep smiling throughout

Keep your eyes on 2-3 people at different parts of the room at least 75% of the time

Never read from a script / paper / mobile phone

Pause at the right time. Silently count up to 6 for questions, up to 2 if you are moving to a new point

Speak louder than conversational tone - this will help you speak slowly

Slow down if you are feeling out of breath / keep your energy consistent

Don't walk around the stage - stand and face the audience squarely

Use good hand gestures - https://www.scienceofpeople.com/hand-gestures/

RELAXING STRATEGIES

DEEP BREATHING - Suck in air through your nose and exhale through your mouth

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