

Speaking Mathematically

When you see someone give a great speech, it's easy to think that he or she was simply "born" a good speaker. But speaking in public is just like every other skill; in fact, you can learn to communicate the same way you learn to do math! If you break the complex "problem" of giving a speech into a simple "formula," you can practice each individual step until delivering a speech is as natural as addition and subtraction.

However, it's often tempting to skip straight to the answer and just give the speech without working through each step of the formula, just like when doing an easy math problem. Although this may work for some of the simpler speeches throughout your training, if you want to be able to face more complicated public speaking situations, or do advanced algebra, you will need to work through these steps even when doing easier assignments.

Here is one way to think about the "equation" we'll be using in this series:

$$\mathbf{P^3 + R^3 = YSG} \text{ (Young Speaker's Guild)}$$

Each Presentation will address six (6) steps to training for the public platform - two (2) before you give your speech, the speech or presentation itself, and three (3) after you have finished. You could think about this like "adding" the individual steps, but we have found that combining these skills actually leads to "exponential" growth!

Purpose¹ – Why?

Why do you want to improve your communication skills? What do you want to accomplish with this particular speech? Why should we pay attention to how we communicate?

Prepare² – Get ready!

Make sure your speech is ready. This training will give you a number of ways to improve your speech *before* you give it, so you will be able to communicate your message effectively. *Prepare* happens in three (3) parts: *pursue*, *plan* and *practice*. You will pursue knowledge as well as many of your own platforms; plan what you will say to your audiences and practice, practice, practice!

Present³ – Say it!

Start talking! The key to being comfortable on the platform is to be on the platform again . . . and again . . . and again.

Rate¹ – How did it go?

We will be giving you some tools to evaluate yourself and others throughout your training. You will also learn to receive and incorporate the critiques of your parents, teachers, Chapter Leaders and fellow speakers.

Respond² – Now what?

Your presentation does not end when you stop talking! There are a few things you can do after you leave the platform that will help you continue to improve your communication and develop relationships in your community.

Record³ – Write about it.

If you record your experience and keep copies of your speeches, you will develop a valuable resource for your future use as a public speaker. Plus, you'll be able to look back and see just how much you have accomplished!





Presentation Overview

“Hello, my name is . . .”

Content: Introductions

Time: 2-3 minutes

Venue: Chapter setting

After completing the initial steps of *Purpose* and *Prepare*, you will introduce yourself to your Chapter.

Tell the audience as much about yourself as you can in 2 to 3 minutes. Help them get to know you better. Since you may already know some members of your audience, you may need to think awhile to:

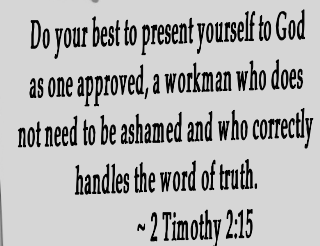
- a) Present characteristics or interests they do not already know
- b) Present your interests in a creative way

There is so much you can share about yourself. Find more suggestions for this presentation in “STEP 3 - Present.”

Objectives

Phase III training will build on what you have achieved in Phases I and II. You will:

- Apply and share Biblical foundations for speaking
- Solidify and teach the six-step approach to the public platform
- Develop a personal testimony and share it in different settings
- Adapt a message to more effectively reach an audience
- Research current events
- Enhance audience analysis skills
- Sharpen the content and delivery of a variety of speeches
- Analyze news media sources
- Identify logical fallacies
- Expand public speaking vocabulary
- Answer questions from your audience
- Practice using a microphone
- Learn how to give a proper introduction
- Conduct an interview
- Present both sides of an issue in a winsome manner
- Practice giving and receiving constructive critiques
- Practice listening skills
- Add to your public speaking portfolio



Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
~ 2 Timothy 2:15

The following resources, published by Communicators Advantage Project, will help you with your assignments, as well as further develop your skills.

- ***Beginning Public Speaking***
- ***The Art of Apologetics***
- ***The Art of Interpretation***
- ***The Art of Platform Speaking***
- ***The Art of Practical Debate***
- ***The Art of Value Debate***
- ***Young Speakers Guild Training Series***

Read more about these resources by visiting the **ICC** online bookstore: <www.instituteforculturalcommunicators.org>.

Assignments

Before you complete Phase III, be sure to complete the following assignments:

Assignment 1:

- Lead three (3) beginning public speaking class sessions. Students must be under 11 years old. Include the notes or outline you used to teach in your portfolio.
- Lead two (2) public speaking class sessions or workshops. Students must be 12-19 years old. Include the notes or outlines of your classes in your portfolio.
- Record the information on the forms in the back of this pack and ask your Chapter leader to sign them.

Assignment 2:

- Design a game or activity to use for introducing students to some aspect of public speaking. Direct a group of students through the activity. Describe your activity, including the following information: appropriate age group; objective(s) (what students should learn); instructions for participation; necessary supplies. Include your activity information in your portfolio.

Assignment 3:

- Practice using a microphone in three (3) different venues. Using the forms provided in the back of your Portfolio pack, document your experience and get the appropriate signatures. See “Presentation #7 – Practice” for tips on using a microphone.

Assignment 4:

- Give three (3) formal, proper introductions of your fellow Chapter members in the platform setting. Practice in your Chapter first. Record the information on the form in the back of the Portfolio. See the next page for details.



! STEP 2 - PREPARE !



PREPARE - PURSUE

PURSUE KNOWLEDGE

Look up the following words in a dictionary. Write down the definitions that best relate to your communication skills.

➤ *Testimony:* _____

➤ *Gentleness:* _____

➤ *Respect:* _____

PURSUE THE PLATFORM

Work with your Chapter Leader to locate one community platform for sharing your testimony. Brainstorm together some ideas of venues that would be appropriate for your presentation. Look for new platforms: platforms you have not already been on. List your community platform ideas for this presentation.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



To prepare to share a testimony in an informal conversation, list interactions that you commonly have. List some of the people you see often and the settings in which you see them. This will help you think about looking for opportunities to share a shorter version of your testimony in a casual, conversational setting.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

CHAPTER LEADER'S INITIALS: _____

DATE: _____

List below the names and contact information of the people you need to communicate with to arrange for giving your community presentation. Review the telephone communication tips listed here.

Now make your calls. Be sure to take notes. Your notes should include:

- Tips for Good Telephone Communication**
- ✓ Smile before you begin to speak
 - ✓ Speak clearly
 - ✓ Identify yourself
 - ✓ Ask for the person you wish to speak to and say "please" and "thank you."
 - ✓ Don't eat, drink, or chew gum
 - ✓ Pay attention to the conversation

	Venue #1	Optional Venue
Organization		
Contact Name		
Position		
Phone #		
Email		
Date called		
Notes		
Date to call back		

Record important information about your speaking engagement in the box below. You may want to take this information with you when you go to speak.

Speaking Engagement: _____

DATE: _____ **TIME:** _____ A.M./P.M. **LOCATION:** _____

CHAPTER LEADER'S INITIALS: _____

DATE: _____