

HOW TO ENJOY MEMORIZING A SPEECH!

1. Pick a topic you know a little bit about or that you are interested in

You are going to have to spend a lot of time with the topic, so you may as well make it something you actually want to talk to people about. This gives you a natural ability to be energetic during your speech.

2. Memorize the structure of the speech before memorizing the speech word for word:

Learn the order and keywords to your speech first. For example, if you are giving a speech on the dangers of bumblebees, you might use these keywords: childhood, stinger, and pain. This way you can elaborate on each of these key words in order.

3. Read the speech aloud several times and then work on learning it paragraph by paragraph:

When you begin to memorize your speech, read the speech aloud . . . EVERYWHERE! . . . in the shower, walking down the street, riding the bus, etc. The key part here is not to read the speech directly from your paper every time. Read a line, look away, and repeat the line *without* looking!

4. As you practice, visualize giving the speech:

Because you will be giving the speech in front of real people, it is best to practice your speech in front of real people. Practice with friends or family. Practice in the mirror. Practice with a TRiO tutor. But, remember to visualize giving the speech to a group of people. If that makes you nervous, pretend you are giving your speech to a room full of vegetables. Whatever works best for you!

5. Make sure to interact with your audience while giving the speech:

The point of memorizing a speech is so you can have your hands free of holding note cards and manuscripts. Look at your audience and engage with them by having fun with your speech. If you are shy and don't like being in front of people, pretend you love it. Now is your time to shine!

6. Have fun!

What is the point of all of this if you aren't enjoying yourself? This is your chance to learn about a topic you enjoy and share it with a group of people, so have some fun with it. Be dramatic, make a joke, and have some fun!!!!