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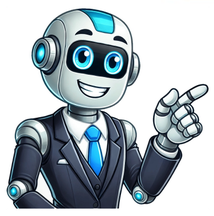

HOME › How to write a speech › Introduction 12 of the best attention getters to start a speech By: Susan Dugdale The audience settles in their seats. The lights dim. You walk out to the center of the stage. You pause, take a deep breath, open your mouth and begin.What you say over the next 30 seconds to introduce your speech or presentation is crucial.That's how much time you have to make a positive impression on your audience. In it they will decide whether or not you have anything relevant or useful to say. Those first impressions count!So how do you write an effective speech introduction to grab and hold their attention?Begin by finding out how to choose the right opener. how to choose the right opener for your speech 12 of the very best ways to start a speech The better way to make your choice of opener is after you have carefully considered who you are talking to and why you're talking to them. One size does not fit all. Different audiences will respond differently. If you are giving the same speech multiple times think about what you may need to change to fit. To work well your opening needs to be aligned with: the type of speech you're givingyour main purpose for giving ityour target audience and, their interests or needsBoth the hook* to catch their attention and your topic must be relevant to them. Unless they're a captive audience, they've come freely to listen to you and they're expecting something of value from you.How are you going to let them know they're in the right place? Why should they listen? What are they going to get or gain through listening? Out of all the different ways to open, what attention getter is absolutely the best way? The only way I know to work out what is best is to go through each of them, and as you do, consider your audience. Make a short list of those you think might work then try them out before making your final choice.* hook – an opening statement that immediately captures the audience's attention just like a well baited hook on a fishing line catches a fish. 12 of the very best ways to start a speech 1. Use imagination to create mind pictures Ask the audience to use their imagination. Get them to build evocative compelling images in their minds. Make them large. Add vibrant color, sound and movement.For example:“Let's take a break. Make yourself comfortable. Now close your eyes for a moment. Take a deep breath, and you're there, in the place where you feel the most at ease, the place where all the tensions, all the demands of your normal everyday life disappear. Look around you. See it. Feel it. It's so good, it's perfect.""Close your eyes. Take a deep breath and a moment to picture in your mind the people dearest to you, the people you feel you could not live without. Now when did you talk to them, or spend real time with them last?" 2. Use an item to build a connection Choose an image or an object related to your speech, for instance a pair of shoes, to trigger interest and build a connection.For example, if I were giving a speech on the lives of upper-middle class 19th century women I could open by holding up a pair of ornately decorated kid leather pumps. “What's the name of the young woman who wore these? Listen. Can you hear the rustle of her silk skirts? And hear her heart beat bom-biddy-bom as the beau of the ball stepped her way? Would he, or wouldn't he ask her to dance?” 3. Ask a 'What if…?' rhetorical question 'What if…?' invites an audience to consider the possibilities of something becoming real. They can be positive somethings or negative, trivial or something that would have a significant impact if it came to pass. The power of a 'what if…?' rhetorical question as an opener lies in the potency of the images and feelings it triggers. A well-chosen 'what if…?' will immediately have an audience wanting to hear the rest of your speech.For example:"What if we don't find a way to successfully manage climate change?""What if we really did solve the affordable housing crisis?""What if questions of race and color ceased to matter?""What if medicines were freely available to everybody who needed them?""What if the person sitting next to you turned, looked into your eyes and said they loved you? Truly. Madly. Deeply." 4. Try a quotation from someone who's impacted your life in some way To be effective a quotation doesn't have to be the clever quip or snippet of enduring wisdom: a famous quote from a well known person. It's origin could be personal, something someone important in your life said that's remained with you.For example, my Mother answered all initial wails of outrage, pain or hurt from any of her five children with a command. "Breathe!" That was repeated, interwoven with encouraging asides, until whoever it was, was able to talk clearly and be understood. "It's OK.", she'd say. "Breathe. Come on. You can do it. Breathe. That's it. Keep going. Good."Or I could use this line from one of my high school reports which read, "…with further maturity she should do well." (Thank you Mr Phillips. Your prediction was right on target.) Or this from our son aged four as he watched me getting ready for another day of teaching: "When I grow up I'm going to wear pretty dresses and go to school just like you." 5. Use an interesting key fact Choose an interesting key fact as an attention getting device: one of the most rarely known, or a shocking statistic from the body of your speech to open with.For example:"Take a guess at what the most powerful and frequently used word is in the English language? It's not one of those usually thought of candidates. Love? No. Money? Nope. Neither is it any member of your family… Mum, Dad, brother, sister, son, or daughter. It's a three letter word, so common it's overlooked and taken for granted. 'The'. It's the humble 'the'."(For more see this BBC article: Is this the most powerful word in the English language? Or:"Between 2020/21 and 2021/2022, Americans consumed about 11 million metric tons of sugar, up from about 10 million metric tons in 2009/2010. Can you even begin to imagine the size of that sweet white mountain?"(For more see: US sugar consumption statistics) 6. Share personal stories Share a personal story related to your specific topic as the beginning of a speech. Done well, it lets the audience know you understand their situation and helps establish your credibility: your right to talk on the subject.As an example here's the opening of a speech I gave about the impact of suicide on families and friends: “One fine Spring day I biked home from school and found a policemen guarding our backdoor. Through it came sounds I'll never forget: my quiet Mother screaming. He said, "You can't go in."I kicked him in the shins and did. It was the 15th of September, three days before my thirteenth birthday and my father was dead. Killed by his own hand. Suicide.”(If you want to find out more about the speech and read it, it's here: After they're gone. It's an example persuasive speech using the five steps of Monroe's Motivated Sequence.) 7. Rhetorical questions These are questions that although they are asked, they're never really intended to be answered by anyone other than the person asking them.* Their principal function is to act as a segue, or lead in, to what the person intends to say next. For instance, the first main point of your introduction.Examples: "What if I were to say to you that there was no such thing as public speaking fear?""What do you think the main benefits of being able to speak up in public are?"*Although there's bound to be someone in your audience who will. Be ready for them, and move on. 8. An empathetic question, aligning yourself with the audience and eliciting a response These questions bring speaker and audience together, establishing a common ground, a mutual understanding, which is an effective way to ease into a speech. If your question 'works' you'll see heads nodding in agreement.Examples:"Have you ever experienced the butterflies in your stomach turning into a herd of rampaging elephants, just before you step up to give your presentation?""Have you ever wanted a good day to never end?""How often have you 'lost' your car in the supermarket car park?""How often have you ever wanted to shout, NO? You want me to prepare a new presentation by tomorrow? NO. You want me to stay late, again? NO." Take headlines from what's trending in media you know the audience will be familiar with and see. Using those that relate to your speech topic as the opening of your speech is a good way to grab the attention of the audience. It shows how relevant and up-to-the-minute the topic is.For example: "'Death toll soars to 76 in Florida after Hurricane Ian demolished entire communities.''Noru became a super typhoon in 6 hours. Scientists say powerful storms are becoming harder to forecast.''Hurricane Orlene strengthens into Category 4 storm as it heads toward western Mexico.'Three front page headlines from CNN just today. Climate change. Let's do what we can." 10. This day in history If you're giving a speech to celebrate a special birthday or an anniversary, consider using several carefully selected events that occurred on the same day as a speech opening. They could be either funny or serious, depending on the specific purpose of your speech. They're a great way to place the person in a much wider context and often with exalted company.For example: "What do the 1863 National Thanksgiving Day proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln, National Boyfriend Day, and Gwen Stefani have in common with Joe? Yes, the 3rd of October! It's a great date made better by being Joe's birthday. And we say Gwen is truly privileged to have the same one as him." 11. Issue a challenge Let the audience know first thing, at the beginning of the speech, what action you expect they'll be able to take by the time your presentation is complete. Then when you come to the final points, repeat the call to action, or challenge, as part of your closing statement.For example: "I've a challenge for you. That's to sign up for our public speaking course. Right now you may not see yourself doing that. Public speaking? Me? I'd rather have a root canal done, without painkillers. However, by the end of the presentation…well, let's see. There's a first time for everything!" 12. Shock Use a startling statement, a fact, or a series of facts, to jolt the audience into paying attention.For example:"Covid. We've had 1.06 million of us die in the US, so far. Today there are nearly 60,00 new cases. More mothers, fathers, friends, colleagues, children – people. People ill. People who might die. So why have we stopped wearing masks?"For more: Google: Covid stats US Other speech writing resources Crafting a powerful introduction for your speech is crucial as it sets the tone for the rest of your presentation. From the start, capturing the audience's attention can make all the difference in effectively delivering your message. Why is the Introduction Important? The introduction serves as the jumping-off point to your speech. It is your opportunity to make a solid first impression and establish rapport with your audience. A well-crafted introduction grabs attention and creates anticipation for what's to come, keeping the audience engaged throughout your presentation. Understanding Your Audience: Before crafting your introduction, it's essential to understand your audience. Consider their demographics, interests, and level of familiarity with the topic. Tailoring your introduction to resonate with your audience ensures maximum impact and relevance. Crafting Your Introduction: Start with a Hook: Your introduction should begin with a captivating hook that immediately grabs the audience's attention. This could be a thought-provoking question, a compelling statistic, an anecdote, or a bold statement related to your topic. Provide Context: After hooking the audience, provide context for your speech. Briefly outline the purpose of your presentation and why it's relevant to the audience. This helps set expectations and prepares the audience for what they can expect to learn or gain from your speech. Establish Credibility: Establishing credibility is essential to gaining the trust and attention of your audience. Share relevant credentials, experiences, or accomplishments demonstrating your expertise. This builds credibility and enhances your authority as a speaker. Preview Main Points: Briefly overview the main points you'll discuss in your speech. This will give the audience a roadmap of what to expect and help them follow along more easily throughout your presentation. Transition to the Body of your Speech: Finally, smoothly transition from your introduction to the body of your speech. Use transitional phrases or cues to signal the start of your main points, ensuring a seamless flow from the introduction to the core content of your presentation. Conclusion: Crafting a powerful introduction for your speech is a strategic process that requires careful planning and consideration. By starting with a compelling hook, providing context, establishing credibility, previewing main points, and transitioning seamlessly to the body of your speech, you can captivate your audience from the start and set the stage for a memorable and impactful presentation. FAQs: Why is the introduction of a speech so important? The introduction sets the tone for your speech and determines whether your audience will remain engaged. It's your chance to grab their attention and establish credibility. How long should an introduction be? An introduction should be concise but impactful. Aim for around 10-15% of your total speech time, typically lasting between 1 to 3 minutes. Can I use humor in my introduction? Yes, incorporating humor can effectively capture your audience's attention, but ensure it's relevant and appropriate for the context of your speech. Should I memorize my introduction? While it's essential to be familiar with your introduction, memorizing it word for word can make it sound rehearsed. Instead, focus on understanding the key points and delivering them naturally. How can I practice delivering my introduction? Practice delivering your introduction multiple times, focusing on your tone, pace, and gestures. Consider recording yourself or rehearsing in front of a trusted friend for feedback. Please take a look at our favorite books on public speaking and our favorite courses on public speaking. Those first few words can turn a regular speech into something special. Starting strong helps grab your audience’s attention and keeps them interested throughout your message. Great openings make people want to hear more. Speaking at a wedding, conference, or graduation requires a strong start that connects you with your listeners. A powerful introduction builds trust and engagement from the beginning. Here are proven ways to start your speech that will keep your audience interested from start to finish. Introduction Speech Attention Getters These carefully selected speech openings show different ways to capture audience attention from your first word. 1. The Personal Story Opener “My grandmother used to say that life gives you exactly what you need, exactly when you need it. Standing here today, those words ring especially true. You see, twenty years ago, I sat right where you are now, filled with the same mix of excitement and uncertainty about what lay ahead. That day shaped everything that followed, and here’s why…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: A warm, relatable opening that connects through shared experience. Perfect for graduation speeches, motivational talks, or career-focused presentations. 2. The Striking Statistic “Every sixty seconds, five thousand people log into social media for the first time. That’s three hundred thousand new users every hour. Each one hoping to connect, to belong, to find their place online. But what happens next might surprise you…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: An eye-opening statistical opener that grabs attention immediately. Works well for business presentations, tech conferences, or social impact discussions. 3. The Question Series “Do you notice how quiet your neighborhood has become? Where are the sounds of children playing outside? Why do parks sit empty on sunny days? Something’s changing in our communities, and we can bring back the active street life we used to know…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: A thought-provoking series of questions that builds curiosity and concern. Excellent for community meetings, urban planning presentations, or social advocacy speeches. 4. The Strong Statement “Success shows clear patterns. Behind each breakthrough, each innovation, each milestone reached, you’ll find steps anyone can follow. Here’s how Sarah used these steps to build a million-dollar company from her garage…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: A confident opening that shows value ahead. Great for business seminars, entrepreneurship talks, or success-oriented presentations. 5. The Time Machine “December 14th, 1903. Two brothers stood on a windy beach in North Carolina, about to change transportation forever. They had no fancy degrees. No big financial backing. Just complete belief that humans could fly. Their story shows us something powerful about staying determined…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: A compelling historical reference that connects to current challenges. Ideal for innovation talks, engineering presentations, or motivational speeches. 6. The Compare and Connect “Right now, a tech specialist in California codes the next big app. At the same time, a young girl in Kenya solves her community’s water shortage with a simple, smart invention. Both are changing lives, each in their own way…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: An engaging comparison that shifts expectations and opens minds. Perfect for development talks, innovation conferences, or social entrepreneurship events. 7. The Morning Moment “The sun peeks through your window. Coffee fills your kitchen with its smell. You check your phone messages and suddenly – everything changes. That’s what happened to Mike Stevens, and his story will change how you see opportunity…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: A rich, detailed opening that pulls listeners into the story. Excellent for motivational speeches, sales presentations, or personal development seminars. 8. The Shared Challenge “Stress takes away our joy, blocks our creativity, and stops us from reaching our goals. But there’s another way forward. A path leading to peace, purpose, and lasting happiness…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: An opening that points out common problems and hints at solutions. Works well for wellness seminars, mental health talks, or professional development workshops. 9. The Tomorrow View “Soon, cars will drive themselves. Buildings will clean the air. Robots might serve your morning coffee. But the biggest changes won’t come from machines. They’ll show up in how we connect, create, and care for each other…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: A forward-looking opener that starts discussion. Perfect for technology conferences, trend presentations, or innovation summits. 10. The Reset Button “Take a deep breath. Feel your feet on the ground. Look at the people around you. This moment could start something amazing. Here’s why…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: A mindful opening that creates focus and attention. Ideal for personal growth workshops, meditation seminars, or mindfulness training. 11. The Big Question “What could you do with three extra hours each day? How would your life look with more time for what matters most? Here are secrets from people who found their answer…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: An engaging opener that offers possibilities. Great for productivity workshops, time management seminars, or life optimization presentations. 12. The Fresh Look “‘Money can’t buy happiness.’ You’ve heard this before. But new studies show something different. The amount matters less than how you spend it. This changes the whole discussion…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: A new view of common wisdom that makes people think differently. Fits well in financial seminars, happiness research presentations, or consumer psychology talks. 13. The Connected Stories “Meet Sarah from New York and Michael from Tokyo. Their paths cross in an amazing way. But first, let’s see how their story started…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: An interesting story structure that builds excitement. Perfect for keynote speeches, storytelling workshops, or cultural exchange presentations. 14. The Time Focus “Three seconds. That’s how long it takes to make a first impression. Three seconds to gain trust or lose it. Three seconds to start something big or miss your chance…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: A sharp, rhythmic opening that shows importance through repetition. Excellent for leadership talks, sales training, or personal branding presentations. 15. The Common Ground “That feeling hits you. You stand at a turning point. A choice needs making. You wonder if you’re ready. This story shows how one choice can start good things happening…” — END OF INTRO — Commentary: A relatable opening that connects right away. Works well for life coaching sessions, career transition talks, or personal change workshops. Wrap Up These openers show different ways to grab attention and connect with your audience immediately. Each method fits specific needs and can match your style and event. Pick one that fits your message and audience, then make it yours. In each bustling classroom, dynamic meeting room, or grand event hall, the beginning words can determine the fate of the entire presentation. Grabbing attention early on is crucial. You have mere seconds to make an impression. But, don’t worry! With a few strategies, you can captivate your audience. Your opening isn’t just about garnering attention. It’s about resonating with your listeners, be it classmates, colleagues, or a broader audience. This part of your delivery usually sets the stage, providing a roadmap for what’s to follow. Imagine starting with an impactful story or an engaging question that challenges your audience to think. Engaging? Absolutely. Effective as well. A well-crafted opening should include a touch of credibility. Showcase your expertise or background in the topic without sounding boastful. Remember, you’re not just speaking – you’re establishing a connection. Think of yourself as a conversationalist rather than a salesman. Whether it’s a conference, a school project, or even a video presentation, that initial minute matters. It can make them stop clicking away and start paying attention. There are numerous ways to open effectively. The right one for your speech- depends on various factors such as topic, audience, and goal. You might use an anecdote, a compelling quote, or a striking statistic. Including such elements not only draws listeners in but also sets a memorable tone. Jokes can work too, if they fit your theme and are tasteful. Done right, your introduction won’t just be an appetizer – it’ll be the hook that leads to a satisfying main course. Consider this: if you were reading an essay or watching a video, what kind of intro would keep you engaged? The same goes for your audience. They’re more likely to stay with you on this journey if you strike the right chord from the get-go. Above all, your goal should be to create goodwill and foster genuine interest. With these ideas in mind, you’re well on your way to an introduction that stands out in any context. Ready to dive deeper? Let’s continue down this road to becoming an introduction speech expert. Mastering the Art of Engagement Engaging your audience is both an art and a skill. You must connect emotionally with your listeners. Moreover, drawing them into your story isn’t just about words. It’s about creating moments they can relate to. Using Humor Effectively Humor is a powerful tool. It breaks the ice. It opens hearts. Additionally, it makes your content memorable. Professionals often use humor to create a bond with the audience. Be mindful, though. Avoid jokes that could be offensive or misunderstood. Instead, focus on light, inclusive humor that adds value without detracting from your message. The Power of Storytelling Everyone loves a good story. Storytelling turns ordinary points into extraordinary moments. As you prepare, think of stories that highlight your main themes. For example, sharing a personal anecdote can make abstract ideas more tangible. Don’t just throw in filler words; be concise and impactful. Start with a hook. Grab attention right away. Introduce relatable characters. Make the audience see themselves in your tales. Build up to a climax. Create suspense or the occasional shock. End with a strong conclusion. Leave them with something to ponder. Interactive Elements Involving your audience is crucial. Why talk at them when you can talk with them? Consider asking questions. Audience participation opens up two-way communication, moving away from monologue towards dialogue. For instance, invite members to share their experiences. This not only validates your points but builds a community atmosphere. Remember, engagement is not merely about speaking, but creating a shared experience. So, be prepared and flexible. Tailor your approach to the specific demographics of your audience. Avoid overloading them with too much information. Instead, transition smoothly from one point to another, ensuring they follow along easily. In everyday speeches as well as more formal occasions, mastering engagement can be your secret weapon. From making strong first impressions to leaving a lasting impact, effective engagement crafts memorable, credible, and interesting speeches. So here’s the mission: Transform your speech by incorporating these elements. By being mindful of humor, storytelling, and interactive components, you will stand out. Ensure every participant leaves feeling they were not just talked to but spoken with. Thank them for their time and their attention, and they will thank you for your words. Structuring Your Speech for Impact Every presentation needs a strong framework to captivate its audience. You’ve probably heard of different ways to structure your speech, but what’s the most effective one? The key is organization. You need to know how to arrange your content so it resonates. Without a solid structure, even the best ideas can fall flat. Let’s dive into structuring your speech for maximum impact. Beginning with a Hook Your opening sets the tone for your entire speech- Preview something intriguing. It could be a compelling story, a quote, or a thought-provoking question. Pick a hook that reflects your overall message. This initial statement should quickly grab the listeners’ attention, making them eager for more. Start with a personal anecdote. Use a surprising statistic or fact. Pose a rhetorical question. Quote someone relevant to your topic. Main Body: The Meat of Your Speech Now you’ve hooked them, it’s time to dive into the main areas. Organize your points clearly. Each section should flow logically to the next. Usually, three to five main points work best. This keeps your audience engaged without becoming overwhelmed. Introduce your first major point, backed by evidence. Transition smoothly into the next point, maintaining a logical progression. Develop each point fully, without rambling. Use verbal cues to guide your listeners through your journey. Larger sections benefit from brief summaries. This helps reinforce your message and keeps your audience on track. Remember, clarity is vital. Ending on a Strong Note Your conclusion should bring everything together. Recap your main points, offering a final thought or call to action. Loop back to your hook; this creates cohesion. End with something memorable. Whether it’s an emotional appeal, a call for action, or a personalized closing, your goal is to leave a lasting impression. Summarize key takeaways briefly. Relate back to your opening hook. Make a strong closing statement. Invite questions if appropriate. In summary, a well-structured speech can significantly boost your performance. Keep your organization tight and your language impactful. This way, you ensure your message resonates, leaving your audience both informed and inspired. Captivating Your Audience from the Start Capturing your audience’s attention right from the onset can dictate the success of your presentation. The beginning moments are crucial. They’re the time to make a quick impact. If you engage people early, they’ll stay with you. Offer something memorable that makes them eager to hear more. Using Parables and Stories Humans love stories. Parables can make your point relatable. They add a surprising element that hooks people. Adam, for example, might begin with a brief story about a local hero. This method not only grabs attention but also creates an emotional connection. Everyone prefers compelling narratives over dry facts. Asking Intriguing Questions Questions draw people in. Asking something thought-provoking can immediately engage minds. Think about starting with, “What would you do if you had 24 hours left to live?” Such questions make people pause. They consider their own answers and start interacting mentally with your presentation. It’s a way to get them to focus intensely right from the beginning. Strategy Description Surprising Facts Presenting a surprising fact can make your audience sit up and listen. Personal Anecdotes Sharing a personal story can make your introduction more relatable and engaging. Expert Quotations Using a quotation from a well-known expert can lend credibility and captivate interest. Remember, the goal is to make an impactful start. Avoid unnecessary information. Keep it relevant to your main topic. In a virtual setting, this becomes even more critical. Virtual audiences have quick distractions. They may move on if not engaged right away. Be ready and prepare your initial moments thoroughly. Consider a sample opening: “Good evening, everyone. Do you know that 70% of people fail because they misunderstand their goals? Tonight, we’re going to explore how to set goals differently, ensuring success. My name is Adam, and I’ve spent the last decade helping people achieve their dreams.” This approach blends questions, surprising facts, and personal engagement smoothly. Taking the stage, whether real or virtual, you’ll find these techniques help. Focus on the elements that engage, avoid what’s unnecessary, and your presentational journey will be worth every moment for your audience. In my opinion, starting strong makes the difference between a good and a great speech. Prepare like you’re about to answer the most important question, and then exceed those expectations. Crafting a Powerful Opening Statement Creating a strong opening statement is crucial for engaging your audience from the very beginning. This part of your discourse must be captivating, thought-provoking, and tailored to your listeners. You need something that will make the audience sit up and pay attention to your speech! Striking chords and evoking curiosity are essential here. Imagine standing up to speak, and before anyone has a chance to get distracted, you capture their interest immediately. How do you achieve this? By ensuring you are prepared and knowing your audience’s needs, you can turn even a simple greeting into something gripping. Here are some strategies for crafting that powerful opening: Greeting with Impact: Start with a bold statement, a surprising fact, or a heartfelt story. For example, “Last Saturday, I experienced something that changed my perspective entirely…” This sets a tone and creates a vivid picture in their minds. Rhetorical Questions: Ask a question that compels your audience to think. “Have you ever wondered what it’s like to walk on Mars?” A question like this can loop your listeners into your narrative. Quotations and Sayings: Introduce your topic with a relevant quotation. “As writer Mark Twain once remarked, ‘The secret of getting ahead is getting started.’” Quotations provide a familiar foothold and enrich your points. Personal Stories: Relate an interesting story or an experience. “When I was younger, I often asked my mom about the universe…” Storytelling makes your speech more relatable and memorable. Shocking Facts or Statistics: Deliver a shocking fact to grab attention. “Did you know that 7 out of 10 people use outdated software?” This method can introduce serious subjects without appearing too heavy. Apologies and Reflections: Sometimes, a humble opening works best. “Before I begin, I want to apologize for any delays…” This opening shows respect and sincerity. A solid opening is foundational for ensuring your audience is listening and engaged. Whether using language that surprises, stories that involve, or questions that challenge, make sure your opening aligns with your purpose and resonates with your audience’s interests. Conclude your opening by smoothly transitioning into the main part of your speech, leaving no room for lapses in attention. If you master this, you’ll have an engaged audience eager to hear what comes next! Introduction Speech Utilizing Stories to Connect Your audience’s attention could falter if they don’t find a connection. Telling stories establishes that link. Once there, your speech can move smoothly. Sometimes, people need more than data points; they crave emotion. Add stories that bring a “wow” feeling. For instance, take one of Barack Obama’s speeches. He often used personal anecdotes to drive home larger points. This method worked because it added a self-reflective touch. It showed both vulnerability and authenticity. The audience knew he was sharing part of himself, not just opinions. Are you prepared? If not, stop and outline a few stories. These could be about mistakes made and lessons learned. They provide anticipation and intrigue. People love a tale where they can see evidence of growth. Therefore, begin with a strong greeting. Transition smoothly from one story to another, keeping your narrative clear. Consider this example: starting with a shocking event can hook listeners instantly. A moment that adds a touch of shock can be incredibly effective. But don’t lose them; maintain a steady flow. While outlining your speech’s milestones, make sure the stories align with your main points. In some cases, too many facts and figures will overwhelm. They might start to lose interest. Therefore, intersperse stories to break the monotony. Anecdotes act as a license to engage emotionally. This method helps you become more relatable, further strengthening your connection. Obama’s speeches are worth exploring particularly for their story elements. He worked on making complex issues relatable. You can follow his example to add depth and character to your talk. People already know information, but stories give them more reason to listen. Finally, stories provide a natural transition. They make the journey from one topic to another seamless. Once you’ve nailed this, your delivery will impress. Remember that good storytelling can turn a decent speech into an unforgettable experience. Maintaining Confidence and Poise Standing in front of an audience can be daunting. Maintaining confidence and poise is crucial. It significantly impacts the listener’s perception. Presenting yourself well sets a strong impression. Let’s break down some strategies. Believe in your message. This is the first step to self-assurance. Practice makes perfect. Rehearse your talk multiple times. Keep your speech concise. A clear message always stands out. Make eye contact. This connects you with your audience. Think about a walker on a tightrope. Confidence is their balance. Without it, they may stumble. Similarly, a speaker’s confidence sets the tone. When you reveal your theme with confidence, listeners engage more. Sometimes, impromptu speaking requests arise. Stay calm and collected. Remember your interests and source of knowledge. This will ease you through unexpected moments. If you stay on subject, you’re more likely to succeed. Outlining key points beforehand helps. This acts as your roadmap. It adds structure to your talk. Knowing your content backwards minimizes stress, ensuring a composed delivery. Engage with the audience genuinely. A real connection transcends mere words. For instance, share a personal anecdote. This builds relatability and trust. Additionally, a concise story or joke can serve as a great icebreaker. Start with a strong opening line. Introduce key points with clarity. Conclude with a compelling summary. Your lifestyle habits affect your confidence. Adequate rest and preparation are essential. Often, the smallest details contribute the most. Body language matters. Stand straight, and use gestures deliberately. These non-verbal cues support your words. Always preview your topic internally. Running through it mentally helps. If you send your message with clarity, it’s well received. Becoming accustomed to the public speaking environment reduces anxiety. Answering FAQ’s about your subject? Use this as a bonus. It shows in-depth knowledge. Always adapt based on feedback. Sometimes, adjusting on-the-fly is necessary. Think of each speaking engagement as a step forward. All experiences build your skill. Over time, confidence in public speaking will become second nature. Examples to Inspire Your Own Speech When preparing your introduction, reviewing a few sample speeches can be incredibly helpful. These examples act as a foundation, guiding you through what works and what to avoid. Whether you’re speaking at a virtual conference or addressing classmates in a classroom, a concise and well-structured beginning is crucial. It sets the tone for your entire performance, capturing your audience’s attention immediately. Now, let’s explore some inspiring examples. Opening with a Personal Touch Take a cue from expert speakers who often start with a personal anecdote. It adds authenticity and fosters a connection with the audience. For instance, Walker, an experienced orator, once began by recalling a childhood memory that perfectly tied into his speech’s main theme. This technique enchants listeners and makes your narrative more relatable. Incorporating Statistics and Credentials Sometimes, including statistics can give your speech a factual backbone. Imagine starting with, “Did you know that 70% of our country still faces daily power outages?” It’s informative and immediately pulls in the audience. Additionally, make sure to mention your credentials succinctly. For example, stating, “As the head of the Safety Organization for over 15 years, I have witnessed real-life impacts,” establishes credibility. Another thing that is usually impactful is addressing the audience directly with a question. Ask, “What if I told you we could cut carbon emissions by half in just five years?” This engages those listening, making them think and feel involved. Combining such elements can transform your speech into a memorable experience. Remember, your conclusion should wrap everything together, leaving a lasting impression. Avoid generic endings; instead, aim for a thought-provoking statement or a call to action. Speaking in everyday language keeps your ideas accessible. Avoid jargon unless your audience is already familiar with it. Some speakers, particularly those at larger conferences, find it useful to summarize key points beforehand. This tactic sets expectations and outlines what’s coming next. Take inspiration from these diverse strategies, but tailor each to fit the specific context and audience! It’s your time to shine – so make those first few seconds count. Happy speaking! Q&A What are the key elements of a successful introduction speech? A successful introduction speech typically includes a few key elements: a strong opening that grabs the audience’s attention, a clear statement of your purpose, relevant background information about the speaker or subject, and a smooth transition into the main content. The opening could be an intriguing quote, a startling fact, or a personal anecdote. Ensuring that the speech is concise, engaging, and relevant helps set a positive tone for what follows. How can I keep my audience engaged during my introduction speech? Keeping your audience engaged involves a combination of elements. Start with an attention-grabbing opening, such as a surprising fact, a relatable story, or a provocative question. Use clear and relatable language, and keep your points concise. Maintain good eye contact, vary your tone and pace, and use appropriate gestures to emphasize your points. Additionally, connecting with your audience on a personal level by addressing their interests or concerns can significantly enhance engagement. Can you provide an example of an effective opening for an introduction speech? Sure! An effective opening might be: “Did you know that the average person spends about six months of their lifetime waiting for red lights to turn green? Imagine if we could use that time more productively. Today, I am thrilled to introduce you to someone who has mastered the art of optimizing life’s brief pauses—please welcome our speaker, Jane Doe, a renowned expert in time management.” What common mistakes should I avoid when delivering an introduction speech? When delivering an introduction speech, it’s important to avoid common mistakes such as: speaking too long and losing your audience’s interest, failing to properly introduce the speaker or topic, using overly complex or irrelevant information, and reading from your notes instead of engaging with the audience. Additionally, avoid turning the introduction into a personal monologue; keep the focus on preparing the audience for the main speaker or content. Practicing your speech in advance can help mitigate these issues. Why is an introduction speech important, and how does it set the tone for the event? An introduction speech is crucial because it sets the stage for everything that follows. It serves to capture the audience’s attention, establish the context, and generate interest and anticipation for the main content. A well-crafted introduction builds rapport with the audience and highlights the relevance and significance of the forthcoming speaker or topic. By carefully crafting your introduction, you create a seamless transition into the event, helping to ensure that the audience is engaged and receptive from the very start. What are the key elements to include in an introduction speech to make it engaging and effective? An effective introduction speech usually includes several key elements. First, it should begin with a strong hook to capture the audience’s attention—this can be an interesting fact, a quote, an anecdote, or a question. After the hook, the speaker should introduce themselves and clarify their purpose for speaking. This is followed by a brief overview of the main points they intend to cover. To make the speech more engaging, incorporating a personal story or a touch of humor can create a connection with the audience. Finally, it’s essential to close the introduction with a smooth transition into the main content of the speech, setting the stage for what’s to come. Can you provide an example of a strong opening hook for an introduction speech? Certainly! An effective opening hook could be an intriguing statistic or a compelling question relevant to the topic at hand. For example, if you were giving a speech on climate change, you might start with something like: “Did you know that 2022 was one of the hottest years on record? As temperatures rise, so too do the stakes for our planet.” This type of hook engages the audience immediately by presenting them with a surprising fact that highlights the importance of your topic. Other hooks might include a quote from a renowned expert, a short personal story that ties into the main theme, or a rhetorical question designed to make the audience think deeply about the subject. Video How to Start a Speech: The Best (and Worst) Speech Openers Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. View synonyms for introduction the act of introducing or fact of being introduced a presentation of one person to another or others a means of presenting a person to another person, group, etc, such as a letter of introduction or reference a preliminary part, as of a book, speech, etcan instrumental passage preceding the entry of a soloist, choir, etcan opening passage in a movement or composition that precedes the main material something that has been or is introduced, esp something that is not native to an area, country, etc a basic or elementary work of instruction, reference, etc logic (qualified by the name of an operation) a syntactic rule specifying the conditions under which a formula or statement containing the specified operator may be derived from othersnegation-introductionconjunction-introduction“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012rein·tro·duction nounself-intro·duction nounsubin·tro·duction nounOrigin of introduction1First recorded in 1350–1400; Middle English introduccion, from Latin intrōductiōn- (stem of intrōductiō). See introduce, -tionIntroduction, foreword, preface refer to material given at the front of a book to explain or introduce it to the reader. A foreword is part of the front matter and is usually written by someone other than the author, often an authority on the subject of the book. A preface is the author's own statement, and often includes acknowledgments. It follows the foreword (if there is one) and is also part of the front matter. The introduction is always by the author. It may be extensive and is usually printed as part of the text.Examples have not been reviewed.The man who made that introduction was Jack Irvine, former newspaper editor turned successful PR executive.And these medications really helped people, said El-Mallakh, who witnessed their introduction first-hand while working in the field in the 1990s and still values their role today.Can a team correctly assess the conditions in order to tactically maximise the introduction of the replacement?Ash Scotland say it is a step in the right direction, but fears that the introduction of new regulations will take too long."There has been some movement on that though the Windsor Framework – some of it creating perhaps more challenges too with the introduction of parcel arrangements from May."The introduction is the first section of an essay. It presents, or introduces, the essay topic and includes a thesis statement. Students are usually taught to write an essay in three parts, with the first part being the introduction, followed by the body and ending with a conclusion. The introduction is often considered to be the most important part of the essay because it summarizes the essay’s topic and introduces the thesis statement. The thesis statement presents the specific argument the essay will make or the main point the reader should take away. Outside of essays, introductions are also used in articles, opinion pieces, blog posts, research papers, and other types of writing to entice someone into reading the whole piece. The first records of the word introduction come around 1350. It ultimately comes from the Latin intrōdūcere, meaning “to lead inside.” In terms of an essay, the introduction presents the reader with the essay topic, inviting them “inside” the essay to learn more. Teachers often tell students that an introduction should be only as long as it needs to be to do its job, which you might find frustrating and vague. A good introduction begins with a sentence that will interest the reader and entice them to read the rest of the essay, often called a hook. The hook can be an unexpected question, a shocking sentence, an interesting statistic, a powerful quote, or many other possibilities. After the hook, you’ll want to include sentences that talk about the main points of your essay or that provide a small amount of background information a reader might need. The introduction should not go into detail about any of the points you’ll make in the body of the essay. You’ll also include a thesis statement in your introduction, often as the last sentence. For student essays, the thesis statement usually answers the question asked by the writing prompt or presents their position on a debate or situation. The introduction can be the hardest part of an essay to write because you have to know what you will say in the essay. When a writer is struggling with their introduction, they sometimes find that writing it after they write the body of the essay is easier. This slide gives a quick summary of some elements of a good introduction.