

Name: _____

Commemorative Speech Assignment

You will be preparing to give a commemorative speech. Details about commemorative speeches are included later in this packet.

Dates will be given by the teacher and you are to write them in the spaces provided for each set of days. (In case of more snow days.)

Timeline:

_____ **Day 1:** Pick a topic and begin brainstorming.

_____ **Day 2:** Write a rough draft.

_____ **Days 3 and 4:** Type up speeches and prepare PowerPoint presentations.

_____ **Days 5, 6, 7, and 8:** Present Speeches

(Anything after the 7th day gets a grade of 0 without a medical excuse from a medical doctor.)

Information:

The following three pages contain the rubric and information on what a commemorative speech is as well as what you should accomplish within one. Make sure to look over both constantly as you create your speech. The rubric will especially help you determine what kind of grade you will receive depending on the amount of preparation you do.

As you look at the rubric, you'll notice the bold "visual aids" words. Your speech requires visual aids. It can be anything that serves as a suitable visual aid. A suitable visual aid is one the audience can see (or that can be passed around). You will lose the 10 points for the part with the bolded "visual aids" words if you do not have one (hard to handle a visual aid if you don't have one).



Commemorative Speech Rubric

Introduction – 15 Points Possible

Good use of an attention getter?	0 1 2 3 4 5
Shows good credibility?	0 1 2 3 4 5
Relates the topic to the audience?	0 1 2 3 4 5
Previews main points?	0 1 2 3 4 5
Comments	

Body – 15 Points Possible

Points supported with both facts and personal experiences?	0 1 2 3 4 5
Organizational pattern easy to follow?	0 1 2 3 4 5
Provides reasonable information about the person, place, thing, or event?	0 1 2 3 4 5
Comments	

Conclusion – 10 Points Possible

Reviews main points?	0 1 2 3 4 5
Provides a memorable, creative conclusion?	0 1 2 3 4 5
Comments	

Delivery – 40 Points Possible

Eye contact?	0 5 10
Gestures/Movements?	0 5 10
Vocal expression? (rate, pitch, and volume)	0 5 10
Handling and appropriateness of note cards/outline/visual aids (visual aid is required)?	0 5 10
Comments	

Outline – 10 Points Possible

Correct format?	0 1 2 3 4 5
Neat and appropriate?	0 1 2 3 4 5
Comments	

Time Limit – 10 Points Possible

Time penalty: 1 point deducted for every 30 seconds over or under limit. You'll be asked to sit down if you go more than 15 minutes. 4 minute minimum.	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
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Total Earned:

Total Points Possible:

105

Commemorative Speech

(Courtesy of the University of Hawai'i Maui Community College Speech Department)

The main intent of commemorative speaking is either to commemorate or pay tribute to a person, group, place/institution, idea, monument, or event. Your function as a speaker is to highlight the reasons for the occasion, express the sentiments held by everyone involved in the celebration, commemoration, and tribute, and arouse your audience with an inspiring speech. Use the principles of ceremonial/special occasion and commemorative speaking outlined here to help you write, organize, and deliver your commemorative speech.



1. Create a ceremonial speech that is short and eloquent. (4 Minutes Minimum)

Except for those times when you are the primary speaker, keep your ceremonial speech short; about four to five minutes long. Because of this brevity, choose ideas and words that will have a dramatic effect and practice your delivery so that you can convey the appropriate meaning and feeling of your speech. Also, use a climactic organizational pattern and intonation, particularly when concluding the speech. In this case and for this class, your minimum time is four minutes.

2. Adapt your speech to the occasion and the person, place, or event you are celebrating.

Base the content, language, and delivery of your speech upon the nature of the occasion, the personality of the honoree or the character of the event commemorated, and your audience's sentiments towards the celebrated person or event. For instance, if you are presenting a prestigious award at a formal awards ceremony or commemorating a solemn occasion, use a formal style of language and a serious tone of voice. However, if you are giving an anniversary speech to close friends at a small dinner or a testimonial on behalf of a gregarious friend, use informal language and a more sentimental or whimsical tone.

3. Consider the emotional needs of your audience and attempt to fulfill these needs with your speech.

Determine whether your speech should create a festive mood, convey respect for the honoree's accomplishments, allow your audience to grieve, or humor your audience and use appeals and a style of language and speaking that will fulfill these needs.

4. Focus more on conveying your emotions, respect, and sincerity than providing a great deal of information about the honoree.

Insofar as the majority of your audience will already be familiar with the honoree, your main intent is not to inform or persuade but to inspire and celebrate. However, you will still want to reacquaint your audience with the achievements of the celebrated so that you can strengthen their respect and admiration for the person, place, or event being celebrated. To achieve both the purposes of informing and inspiring your audience, try to be creative with your explanations and descriptions rather than simply informative.

5. Unify your audience around emotions and sentiments you commonly share for the commemorated.

For instance, narrate a personal experience involving the honoree, quote an expression she always uses, or describe one of her everyday activities that depicts a value or characteristic of the honoree with which everyone can empathize. Likewise, try to describe the enthusiasm, disappointment, and camaraderie felt by people who have worked together on behalf of a cause, organization, or event so that they and others can re-experience these feelings through your speech.

6. Make specific references to the particular characteristics and contributions of the honoree.

Do not generally state that the honoree has a good character and many achievements; rather, cite specific examples of the honoree's virtues and accomplishments so that your audience recognizes her unique qualities and contributions. Moreover, to bring greater insight into the honoree, describe a relatively unknown achievement or offer an original interpretation of one of her attributes.

7. Balance your adulation of the honoree's professional accomplishments with praise for her personal achievements.

Although your speech should concentrate on the honoree's professional work, you should also mention those activities related to honoree's personal life that she, herself deems important. For instance, describe her family life, community activities, or work with non-profit organizations. *(This part does not necessarily fit the commemorative speech you will be doing in class, but it has been left here to help with brainstorming or if it is necessary based on your topic.)*

8. Do not understate or exaggerate your emotions or praise for the honoree.

Avoid falling back upon overused clichés or trite statements to reflect your sentiments. Rather, try to express your feelings in a more innovative way. Never, however, attempt to give a speech if you will be unable to control your emotions. This only creates an awkward situation for both you and the audience and diverts attention away from the commemorated. Lastly, do not exaggerate your praise for the honoree to the point of embarrassing her or making your audience feel uncomfortable.