



ROSTRUM VOICE OF YOUTH

BRIEF TIPS FOR PARTICIPANTS

A) PREPARATION (MATTER AND METHOD or PUTTING IT TOGETHER)

1. Choose a topic that you think will give you the scope to produce something interesting and original.
2. Start generating some ideas about the subject.
3. Once you have thought about the topic, decide what your purpose is, i.e. try to express in a single sentence what your 'take home' message for the audience is going to be; what you want them to know and how you want them to feel at the end of your six or eight minutes.
4. Start to gather material and develop ideas - from reading, talking to family, friends and teachers - which will support this purpose. Look for examples, explanations, illustrations, anecdotes, and statistics.

Make sure that these ideas maintain and reinforce your theme or purpose.

Try also to introduce some human interest - some flesh and blood - and some humour.

5. It often helps to prepare your conclusion first, and in such a way that it leaves the audience with a message which will achieve the purpose.
6. Devise an opening that will grasp the attention of the audience and engage their interest. In the first minute give the adjudicators a hint of your purpose.
7. Revise and integrate the material. Edit it so that it supports the purpose (if it doesn't - reject it). The best material is both interesting and easy for the audience to follow.
8. Write the key words on palm cards. While there will be examples of expressive language which you will not want to forget, the ideas are more important than the actual words.
9. One final thing. Your speech on the platform will usually take longer than your rehearsal.

B) PRESENTATION (MANNER or PUTTING IT ACROSS)

1. Take full responsibility for what you can control. For example, prepare thoroughly and practise the speech out loud (perhaps record or video it and play it back); practise meaningful gestures and have the opening and closing 'off pat'. As a bonus, good preparation will help to keep your nerves in check.
2. Try to visualize what you want to happen; walking to the front of the room; where and how you will stand; pausing before you speak; when to smile; the effect you intend to create.
3. Use your eyes to maintain contact with the audience and move your hands to good effect.
4. Use of Voice - Project your voice; vary the rate, pitch and volume to reflect the mood; take care with the pronunciation of vowels and the articulation of consonants; use the power of the pause to let ideas sink in.
5. Communicate your purpose enthusiastically and sincerely to the audience.
6. Deliver a memorable closing (it may be all that some of the audience remembers).