Guidelines for Speech #4

"This I Believe" - Murdock

Speech Length: 4 to 5 Minutes

For this speech, you will write out a special occasion manuscript speech based on one of the personal beliefs that guide your life. You may have the manuscript in front of you, but should still speak extemporaneously. This speech may be humorous or inspirational.

Stylistics: You will use four examples of stylistic writing in your speech. Label these devices and put them in **Bold** writing and I'll simply be on cloud nine (Metaphor).

Guideline: Write and present your own statement of personal belief. I understand how challenging this is—it requires intense self-examination, and many find it difficult to begin. Just like our other speeches, write the body of the speech first, then go back and write the intro.

To guide you through this process, "This I Believe" offers these suggestions:

**Tell a story:** Be specific. Take your belief out of the ether and ground it in the events of your life. Your story need not be heart-warming or gut-wrenching—it can even be funny—but it should be real. Consider moments when your belief was formed, tested, or changed. Make sure your story ties to the essence of your daily life philosophy and to the shaping of your beliefs.

**Be brief:** Your statement should be about 400 and 800 words. The shorter length forces you to focus on the belief that is central to your life. (Remember that you have 4 to 5 minutes for this speech. Timing penalties begin.

**Name your belief:** If you can’t name it in a sentence or two, your essay might not be about belief. Rather than writing a list, consider focusing on one core belief.

**Be positive:** Say what you do believe, not what you don’t believe. Avoid statements of religious dogma, preaching, or editorializing.

**Be personal:** Make your essay about you; speak in the first person. Try reading your essay aloud to yourself several times, and each time edit it and simplify it until you find the words, tone, and story that truly echo your belief and the way you speak.

**Organization:** This speech may be organized chronologically or in a narrative format—other formats may possibly fit, but check with me first.

**Visuals:** Please have one visual aid to illustrate your speech.

(Adapted from "This I Believe" website, Essay Writing Guidelines, [www.thisbelieve.org/guidelines](http://www.thisbelieve.org/guidelines))

Speech 1 Checklist

__1. Did I create a typed manuscript of my essay? Is it ready to turn in?
__2. Do I have at least one visual aid that makes sense for my speech topic?
__3. Do I have an interesting attention getter and a way to establish my credibility or audience connection to the topic in my intro? Do I introduce my belief as the topic of my speech?
__4. Have I created, put in bold face type and labeled at list 4 stylistic devices?
__4. Have I prepared a conclusion that includes a summary of my speech and a concluding device?
__5. Does my speech tell a story, then relate that story to a larger, universally applicable concept?