

How to Judge a Speech

Making a speech involves many different skills. There is *what* the speaker says, or its content. *How* the speech is delivered involves elements of voice and body. A third aspect, less tangible, is a speaker's credibility, or believability. Here are some things to look for when you evaluate a speech.

Content

Choice - Do you like the piece? Does it keep your attention?

Introduction - Does it set up the speech well?

Organization - Is the speech easy to follow?

Clarity - Are the characters/is the information, easy to understand?

Conclusion - Does it summarize the speech well?

Voice

One of the secrets to good vocal control is *variety*. The best speakers often change their voice patterns to keep their audience's attention.

Volume - Can you hear the speaker well?

Clarity – Does the speaker slur or mumble? Is the enunciation OK?

Tone – Does the speaker have an overly soft or hard tone?

Speed – Does the speaker go too rapidly or too slowly?

Inflection – Does the speaker's pitch always go up or down at the end of a sentence?

Rhythm – Is the speaker stuck on a certain beat?

Body

Eye Contact – Does the speaker maintain a focal point in acting events?

Body Posture – Does the posture emphasize the speaker's points?

Hand Gestures – Are they overdone? Or do they aid expression?

Facial Expressions – Does the speaker have any? Are they appropriate?

Movement – Does it seem natural?

Pauses – Are they situated for dramatic emphasis?

Credibility

Do you believe the speaker?

Do you believe the speaker believes in their speech?

Does the speaker show much emotion through their voice and/or body?