

A few thoughts about Impromptu Speeches

I was very impressed by the speeches today. It is not easy to speak about a topic when you have only one minute to prepare. I was mostly impressed because there was a lot of eye contact and almost everyone spoke in a loud voice. I have a few hints to help you speak easier:

Tell a story

Many speeches had a lot of information. Sometimes, it is too difficult to keep talking about information:

My favorite subject is biology. I like biology because I want to be a biologist. I have wanted to be a biologist since childhood. I especially like cats.
Uhmhmhmhm. etoh ahhhhh. 先生分かりません!

→Tell a story. Stories are easy to tell, and everybody likes to listen to a story:

My favorite subject is biology. In my childhood, I always liked animals, especially cats. One day, I found an injured cat. My mother said I should help it. I gave it water and food and kept it near my bed for four days. I was so glad when it got well. That's why I want to be a biologist.

This speech is longer and more interesting, right? The speech I remember most is the one about Chocolate and Parsely. The speaker talked about her brother giving her chocolate for the first time. GREAT!

Try a different "opening sentence"

Today, every speech began like this:

My favorite subject is biology. I like biology because I want to be a biologist. . . .

This is an easy way to start, but you can change the order to make it longer and more interesting:

When I was young, I liked to watch animals. One time, I found an injured cat. I took care of it for four days. I realized that I want to work with animals in my job, so I think I should become a biologist. That's why my favorite subject is biology. . . .

Give Details

A lot of the speakers had only a few ideas. To keep talking, you should just add details. One student said:

My favorite band is "<nantoka>". I like them because I play music and I like their songs. The songs are very heavy. Uhmhmhm. Etch.

But the speech could be changed to look like this

I like music a lot because I play guitar with my friends. It's difficult to choose a favorite music group because I like many different kinds of music. Generally, I like heavy rock, so I think my favorite band is "<nantoka>". They're great because their songs are loud and their words are moving. I especially like their song, "<nantoka no uta>", because it talks about teenage love. It's sad. I'm sad too, my girlfriend left me. . . .