

Evaluating a Speech

Did the Speaker accomplish the goals stated in the objective?

Was speech clear and focused?

Was it of interest to the audience?

How about - body language, props, vocal variety, eye contact, verbiage, creativity, preparation, and knowledge of subject?

Do not evaluate on skills the speaker is not expected to have – e.g., for Project # 3, a speaker is not required to know props, vocal variety – it is unfair to comment on things the speaker has yet to learn.

1. Open with Positive Points

Possible expressions to use:

- What I enjoyed most about your speech
- Beautifully crafted and organized
- Colorful descriptions
- Hilarious
- Moving
- Wonderful facial expressions
- Painted a great picture with your words
- Personal anecdotes added to the story
- Obviously well researched subject
- Inspiring

2. Two Recommendations –*positive, specific, helpful and easy to implement.*

Possible expressions to use:

Always say, “In my opinion...” (–this is the opinion of the evaluator ONLY)

- You might want to consider
- You might add impact if
- I would like to see
- You may try
- Pacing can be a little distracting

3. Conclusion –*concise and encouraging...summarize all the great attributes of speaker*

Do not end with “I look forward to your next speech”

Possible expressions to use...

- Thanks so much for all your hard work
- I learned something valuable from your speech
- I congratulate you on your inspiring/humorous/interesting speech

How to get better at evaluating speeches: Practice, Practice, Practice!