ESU SKILLS GUIDE

SPEECH MAKING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING: CHOOSING A TOPIC (PRIMARY)

#esufestivalofspeaking

What should I talk about?

You can interpret the ESU Festival of Speaking themes in any way you want. They are very general and it is up to you to decide exactly what you want to talk about. Remember though that the more creative your approach is the better! The audience online will be hearing lots of speeches, so someone who has a different or original take on the theme will instantly grab their attention. A good start is an interesting or memorable speech title.

You don't have to use the week's theme – if there is something else you are interested in and think others would like to hear about then use that – just speak out!

Do I need to be an expert on my topic?

Try to think of a topic which you are interested in or have a strong opinion about. If you don't feel strongly about your topic then your audience will know. Don't feel though that you have to be an expert on your topic. A good balance is to choose a subject which you don't know a great deal about but are interested in. This should make it easier for you to put yourself in your audience's shoes and talk about what would be interesting to them.

Will my topic capture the interest of the audience?

- Expression: make sure that you've really thought about the content of your speech and that your delivery reflects this.
- Emphasis: add impact to your sentences by emphasising important words and phrases.
- Body language: everything from your stance to your face and hand gestures can give your speech more impact.
- Eye contact: maintain good eye-contact with the camera so that all watching feel involved!

Plan. Practise. Perform. Post!

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