

Speech Assignment - Overcoming Difficulties

“Life is full of challenges, big and small, and it's how we face and conquer them that defines our character.”

In this speech assignment, you will have the opportunity to share a personal story or provide insights on how to overcome difficulties.

LEARNING GOALS

By the end of this task, you will be able to:

- **Plan and organize** a speech with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion.
- **Communicate clearly** using appropriate vocabulary, tone, and pace.
- **Use supporting examples** to strengthen your message.
- **Engage your audience** through eye contact, expression, and interesting content.
- **Reflect** on feedback and make improvements before the final presentation.

TASK: Choose one of the following options:

Option 1 - Personal Story

Share a personal experience where you faced a significant challenge or difficulty, and explain how you overcame it.

- This can be academic, personal, or social.
- Include details that show your journey from facing the problem to overcoming it.

Option 2 - Overcoming Difficulties in General

Discuss the importance of overcoming difficulties in life.

- Share advice or strategies that can help others tackle challenges.
- You may use examples from famous individuals, people you know, or your own observations.

Option 3 - Overcoming a Specific Difficulty

Choose one specific challenge young people face today.

- Explain its causes and effects.
- Offer practical solutions or suggestions for dealing with it.
- You may use examples from famous individuals or your own observations.

SPEECH LENGTH: 4-6 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING AND DELIVERING YOUR SPEECH

1. **Strong Opening** - Capture the audience's attention right away and introduce your topic.
2. **Clear Main Point** - Make sure your audience knows your message or lesson.
3. **Support Your Ideas** - Use examples, stories, or details to explain your points.
4. **Share the Journey** - If personal, describe the emotions, thoughts, or doubts you experienced.
5. **Offer Lessons Learned** - Give advice the audience can use in their own lives.
6. **Strong Ending** - Summarize your key points and leave the audience with something to remember.
7. **Practice** - Rehearse your speech several times before presenting.
8. **Optional** - You may use props, images, or other visual aids to enhance your speech.

TIP: *Overcoming challenges is a valuable life skill. Use this opportunity to inspire others while practicing your speaking skills.*

SUCCESS CRITERIA

I will know I am successful when:

- ☒ My speech has a clear main message.
- ☒ I begin with an attention-grabbing introduction.
- ☒ I include examples or stories to support my points.
- ☒ My speech flows logically with clear transitions.
- ☒ I speak clearly, confidently, and at an appropriate pace.
- ☒ I maintain eye contact and use appropriate body language.
- ☒ My conclusion summarizes my points and leaves the audience thinking.

TIME LINE

- **Thu, Aug 21st- First Draft, Peer Review, Self-Reflection & Teacher Feedback**
 - Students submit their **first draft speech** to Moodle. Teacher print out for students to present their **first draft speech** in pairs or small groups. Peers use a simplified **feedback form** based on success criteria (e.g., "One thing you did well..." / "One thing to improve...").
 - Students complete a **self-assessment checklist** comparing their work to the success criteria and identify **two areas** they will improve before final presentation.
 - Students present their speech informally to the teacher for **oral feedback** on pacing, clarity, and engagement.
- **Fri, Aug. 22nd - Final Submission & Speech Presentation Day.**

RUBRIC: Speech Assignment - Overcoming Difficulties

| Criteria | Level 1 (50-59%) | Level 2 (60-69%) | Level 3 (70-79%) | Level 4 (80-100%) |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Knowledge Content (Structure & Message) | Shows limited knowledge of speech structure; unclear or weak main message. | Shows some knowledge of speech structure; the main message is somewhat clear. | Show good knowledge of speech structure; the main message is clear. | Shows thorough knowledge of speech structure; the main message is clear, strong and insightful. |
| Knowledge Relevance (Staying on Topic) | Content often strays off topic; ideas are not clearly connected to the theme of overcoming difficulties. | Content is sometimes on topic; ideas are somewhat connected to the theme. | Content is mostly on topic; ideas are connected and relevant to the theme. | Content is consistently on topic; ideas are highly relevant, insightful, and thought-provoking. |
| Thinking Support (Details & Examples) | Limited or unclear supporting details/examples; connections are weak. | Some relevant supporting details/examples; connections are somewhat clear. | Considerable use of relevant and clear supporting details/examples. | Extensive, highly relevant, and effective supporting details/examples that enhance the message. |
| Communication Clarity (Organization & Flow) | Ideas are disorganized; transitions are unclear; speech is sometimes hard to follow. | Some organization of ideas; transitions are somewhat clear; speech is mostly understandable. | Well-organized ideas with clear transitions; speech is easy to follow. | Highly organized and coherent; transitions are smooth and enhance flow. |
| Communication Delivery (Voice, Pace, Eye Contact, Body Language) | Limited clarity, volume, or pacing; little to no eye contact and body language. | Some clarity, volume, and pacing; some eye contact and body language. | Clear, audible voice with appropriate pace; considerable eye contact and body language. | Clear, confident delivery with strong pace, expression, and consistent eye contact. |
| Application Engagement (Audience Connection) | Attempts to engage the audience but has limited success. | Some strategies used to engage the audience; interest is partially maintained. | Considerable use of strategies to engage the audience; interest maintained throughout most of the speech. | Consistently and effectively engages audience; interest maintained throughout the entire speech. |
| Application Conclusion (Ending & Impact) | Conclusion is weak or missing; leaves little impact. | Conclusion is present but somewhat weak; leaves some impact. | Conclusion is clear and effective; leaves a positive impact. | Conclusion is strong, memorable, and leaves a lasting impact. |