

Elements of a D'var Torah: *NOT NECESSARILY IN THIS ORDER.*

****A D'var Torah is not only a summary of your Torah portion. It also contains different elements: a big question, different answers to that question, and a lesson/message that you want people to leave with.****

a. Intro

- i. "Shabbat Shalom"
- ii. Trigger: Story, joke, question...GRAB PEOPLE'S ATTENTION
- iii. Summarize your entire Torah portion
- iv. Summarize the particular story/passage you will be talking about (Be specific in a few short sentences.)

b. Share your key question(s) and elaborate

c. Answering your question

- i. What have previous **commentators** said about your Torah portion and your key question?
 1. Offer **different rabbinic answers** and expound upon them, why you agree/disagree with 2-3 particular commentators.
 - a. Look at the back of your parashah book.
 - b. Look at sefaria.org
 - c. Google!
 2. Offer the answer you like best, and say why

d. Personalize (What does this question I am asking/parashah mean to me?)

- i. Tie the ideas to **your life and greater society**:
 1. Tell a story or two about your life that relates.
 - a. Show how you:
 - i. Look at that story based on what you learned from your Torah portion, or
 - ii. Look at the Torah portion based on that story.
 2. Explain how the parashah/your question connects to the greater world/a pressing issue society is facing
 3. Explain how you will act as a responsible Jewish adult now that you know this teaching from your Torah portion
 4. If your Torah portion ties in with your Mitzvah project, speak about your Mitzvah project

e. Thank people

f. Offer a blessing that expresses your hope that people will live by the lesson/take away/key message