

Under the file heading, use the “Make a Copy” command to use this template. Delete explanations in italicized text.

RTTP Speech Template

{{Change “RTTP Speech Template” to the title of your speech. Come up with something snappy and medieval-esque!}}

Game Session: *{{Put the title of the game session when you are presenting}}*

date: *{{date of your presentation}}*

type: RTTP Speech

Question and Thesis:

1. Question *{{Write down here what question you will be debating.}}*

2. Thesis¹ *{{Write your answer here in one or two sentences to clarify your core message. }}*

Overview:

{{This section is an outline of structure - it can be easily referred back to if you need to know what comes next when you are presenting. A clear structure sharpens your message and makes it more powerful. }}

3. Introduction - what is the key idea of your formal introduction
4. Argument (developing from A - B - C)
 - a. Point A
 - i. Evidence 1
 - ii. Evidence 2
 - b. Point B
 - i. Evidence 1
 - ii. Evidence 2
 - c. Point C
 - i. Evidence 1
 - ii. Evidence 2
5. Conclusion

¹ Thesis is a fancy way of saying, “what is your take” or what will you be arguing.

Formal Presentation

*Type up the text of your speech. It is ok if your oral presentation wanders from this text. **Present this text** – do not simply read this text in a monotone voice.*

Intro—Argument—Conclusion; where, in the introduction (I), you set the mood or introduce the issues so as to prepare the reader to enter your argument; then you develop your points in the main body of the piece (Argument Aa, Ab, Ac, etc.). In the conclusion (C), you suggest the larger implications of your argument. Often the conclusion will allude to the introduction, suggesting symmetry and promoting closure.

Introduction

Assume that your reader's mind is elsewhere; this assumption is likely to be true. You can hardly win the reader over to your point of view if you don't have their attention. You might care deeply about your soul, but someone else doesn't (or might have a different idea of what constitutes Christian ethics. What if your audience is non-Christian, or what if they are preoccupied with other matters: they care about reunification of the Eastern and Western churches, but not about who might become emperor? That is to say, what if your reader, like most people, is distracted? You must reach out and seize hold of them. How to do this is very much a matter of the writer's art. Try to anticipate your reader's mindset, and then connect with it.

Argument

Much as your paragraph must not contain extraneous or unnecessary sentences, so, too, the sequence of your paragraph-ideas must follow logically. If a paragraph does not fit in the sequence, you should move or delete it.

Point A

*State your key initial idea and then provide evidence using the primary sources related to the topic. You can also buttress your arguments based on your reading of optional secondary sources - but know that in your speech you cannot refer to any event, text or thinker that comes after 1204. When you take quotations from primary sources, you need to both introduce a quotation (where is from and why should the audience care), read the quotation itself and then **explain its significance**. Quotations do not speak for themselves until you explicitly affirm its purpose.*

Point B

Repeat same structure as above.

Point C

Repeat same structure as above.

Conclusion

If the introduction has succeeded in reaching out to your reader, and your argument has held onto them tightly, your conclusion should release them back into “their” world; it should show how your words have somehow changed them. Often it is wise in the conclusion to allude to the introduction, suggesting a structural coherence and closure.

Notes

In this section you should reproduce useful quotations and your annotations on them. You should try to tease out some of the implications raised by quotations and annotations. I.e. you might initially react, “wow” to something written, but you need to turn the complete thought into words. Something like, “This quotation from Augustine of Hippo suggests that only defensive wars can be defensive. But he does not define what he means by “defensive”. Could we consider taking Constantinople as defending Christendom?”

On days you submit a formal speech you do not need to complete another formal Notes note.

Be as complete as possible in your own words. Write as if you are writing for someone else – since you will be. Use full sentences. Be precise, clear and brief.

Related Links

Use this section to make links to works that you used in preparing notes. You can link to specific works on Perusall for example, works in the library catalogue or even to specific threads of annotations. You might want to create subheadings here to key subtopics of the debate.

These links can help you just in case you need to come up with a quick answer to different things your opponents might bring up. Our discussions will have some give and take (person X presents A, person Y presents notA, and then they respond to each other).

Tags

Add short one or two-word tags to identity key ideas you note in your comments