



Public Speaking

Public Speaking is easy and fun, and something you can do no matter how old you are! All you need to do is practice, and before you know it you'll be able to speak in front of any size group without feeling those butterflies in your stomach or frogs in your throat!

Ask your Guiders if you can make a presentation to your unit to start practicing public speaking. Then **see below** and follow the steps to help you prepare your presentation.

Step 1: Choose a Topic

Your speech doesn't have to be long, but you'll want it to be really interesting so the other girls in your unit have a good time while they're listening to you! Your presentation should be about something you like and find interesting. That will make it easier to talk about! If you're having trouble thinking of a good topic, check out the list below and see if any of these seem interesting.

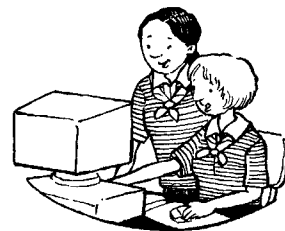
- ✚ What did you do on your last vacation?
- ✚ What do you think your life will be like when you get older?
- ✚ Who is your favorite music star and why do you like their music?
- ✚ What is your favorite book? Why is it so interesting? What was your favorite part?
- ✚ What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you?
- ✚ What is the most embarrassing moment of your life?
- ✚ What is your least favorite subject at school and why?
- ✚ What makes your best friend the best?
- ✚ What is something you would love to be able to try or do and why?
- ✚ How do you help take care of the family pet?
- ✚ Describe what you did to earn a badge.
- ✚ Teach your unit how to play a sport or make a craft.
- ✚ Talk about your favorite food and how to cook it.
- ✚ Describe your favorite hobby or activity.



Step 2: Think About Your Audience

What is your audience like? Are the girls pretty shy and quiet? If they are, they would probably enjoy a presentation where you do most of the talking. On the other hand, if your unit is full of girls who love to ask questions and try something new, they might like a presentation that teaches them something they will get to try while you explain it! You can ask your parents or your Guiders for help when deciding what kind of a presentation you would like to do.

Remember, pictures, posters, slides, props, and other things for your audience to look at or touch will help keep them interested in your presentation!





Step 3: Do Your Homework!

If you're going to be speaking about a certain topic, first you need to know the subject pretty well yourself. Go to the Library, use a textbook from school, read magazine articles, use the Internet, or watch a documentary about the subject of your presentation.

If your topic is already something you are very familiar with, use the Library or Internet to find some extra interesting facts that your audience would like to hear about. For example, if your presentation is about Speedskating and you live in Winnipeg, you could include some information about famous Speedskaters from Winnipeg.



Step 4: Putting It All Together!

Your presentation will always have an introduction, body, and conclusion. The introduction explains what your topic is and why you are presenting this topic. The body is the main portion of the presentation. That's where you will talk about the topic you picked or show the group how to do or make something. The last part is the conclusion. This wraps up the presentation by reminding your audience of the most important points you talked about, and gives them a chance to ask questions.

It's a good idea to write down what you want to say during your presentation. If you are very uncomfortable making presentations, you could start by simply reading your information off a sheet of paper. When you feel more confident, you can switch to using an outline style.

An outline is something that keeps your thoughts organized for you. You don't write down everything you want to say, only enough to remind you what order you're supposed to mention different things during your presentation. Here's an example of an outline for a presentation about Guiding:

Title: Why I Like Guiding

I. Introduction

II. You Meet New Friends

III. You Get to Go Camping

IV. You Make Lots of Crafts

V. Guiding is Fun at Any Age

A. Sparks

B. Brownies

C. Guides

D. Pathfinders

E. Senior Branches

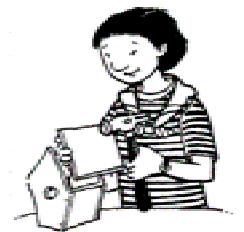
F. Guiders

VI. Conclusion

(Body)



If you are teaching your unit how to make or do something, you might not need to follow an outline during the presentation. But it's still a good idea to write down all the steps and practice ahead of time so you make sure you don't leave anything out!



Step 5: Practice, practice, practice!

Practice makes perfect! Practice doing your presentation in front of your family or friends who aren't in your unit. Be open to suggestions and try to answer all their questions – the girls in your unit might ask the same questions!

And most importantly. . . . HAVE FUN!!!!

You Go Girl!