

How to Write Your Speech Outline

You may use this template or choose not to, but all outlines must have all the parts included here:

Hook: How will I engage my audience? Tell a story? Joke? Use a quotation?

Thesis: The argument I'm making, and a short preview of reasons why it is valid/the best argument. You can use a problem/solution model (like J. Lebovits does), or a persuasive model (the Leonardo video)

Counterargument: this is a crucial part of your speech, because it provides an acknowledgement of the 'other side' early on in your speech. If you can't find one, then, your thesis probably isn't debatable enough.

Main pt. 1: clear topic sentence as previewed in thesis. May articulate the problem, or identify why your argument is the strongest one.

- supporting details x 2

- connection back to thesis + transition

Main pt. 2: clear topic sentence as previewed in thesis . May articulate solution, or provide another reason why your argument is the most compelling.

- supporting details x 2. Can be personal anecdote or story, or results from poll, a convincing quotation, etc.

- connection back to thesis + transition

Conclusion: reviews main ideas, but goes further and makes a connection with the audience in the room. Why does this matter to all of us? So what?

Bibliographic info (cut and paste from BIBme). Min. 3 sources. Can be fb poll, an interview you conduct, material from articles or a database, etc.