

EXPANDING Speech Topics – Brainstorm Prompts

Expertise and Experience	Interest and Curiosity	Inspiration and Impact
• What do you know about? • What comes naturally to you? • What have you seen, done, lived through?	• What do you WANT to learn more about? • What did you want to be when you grew up? • What would you love to research?	• What lights you up? • What impact do you want to have? • If you had to spend the next three years talking about only one topic, what would it be?
Career	Classes you want to take	Favorite quotes/books/movies
Technical/Industry Expertise	Magazines you like to read	Social Media/Favorite Memes
Travel/Trips	Current events	Art
Hobbies	Documentaries	Poetry
Sports	Movies	Music
Family/Ancestors	Pop Culture	Values
Traditions	Science	Goals
Important Memories	Volunteering/Charitable Work	Dreams

FOCUSING Speech Topics – Audience and Purpose Considerations

Begin and end with your audience in mind. Consider this specific speech, your goals, its purpose, and any time limits. Be as specific as possible.

Audience Needs What matters most to this group of people at this time? What did they request? What do you know about them?	
Project Goals What are the objectives of this project? What topic will best allow you to achieve the objectives?	
Practice Skills What skills are you practicing? What feedback do you choose to respond to? What topic will best allow you to practice these skills?	
Time Limits What topic can you cover in the allotted time? How might you add or remove details to bring the same topic to life in different presentation lengths? Could you break a larger topic into several smaller topics?	
Audience Impact What one thing do you want the audience to remember? As a result of hearing this speech, how will your audiences' lives change for the better?	