

How To Write A Winning Humorous Speech E-Course



Secrets To Make
Your Audience Laugh



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www.humorousspeaking.com

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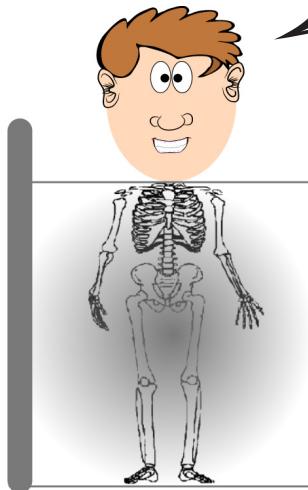
Humor Resource

Introduction

The first secret to writing humor is to know who to blame for missing a funny bone in your body. It is really not your fault that you were not born with a funny bone. Being humor impaired is not your fault. Blame it on your education. You were taught to read and write English, Spanish, and Chinese, but you were not taught to write humor.

As a toastmaster for the last eight years, I have mentored numerous new members from my club. During my mentoring sessions, I always advise them to prepare their entire speeches in writing. But the common response I get is that their written speech does not sound like the way they speak. Of course, they have not learnt how to write the way they speak, and definitely not in a humorous way.

Hey Doc! Did you
find my funny bone?



Many of us have spent too much time in school writing essays. To get a high score for your essay, it must be written to look complicated. This is to show you are more intelligent compared to those who have not gone to school. When writing a humorous speech, you need to write funny and in a way like you are talking to someone, which is a skill that most have not learnt in school. So don't blame yourself. Blame yourself

later when you are not applying the techniques outlined in this ecourse.

Writing a humorous speech is not like skydiving. If you don't succeed the first time, it is not going to kill you. The first rule of writing any speech is to write, rewrite, and rewrite until you get it. Who told you that you can come up with a great speech, writing it once? Whoever gave you that idea must be an incompetent toastmaster.

Writing humor is no laughing matter; it is a very serious matter. If you take the writing seriously, you will be seriously funny. This ecourse will help you to write a humorous speech in a serious but fun and easy way. Unlike other ecourses in the market on writing humor, which were designed for aspiring comedians, this ecourse is specially written for toastmasters.

I know many toastmasters like you, who love their current job and have no plans to become a full-time comedian. So, those courses on humor aren't really helpful. In fact, after studying them, you may be too terrified to write. Your hands may shiver with fear and your brain may suffer a blackout when you try writing your first line because it makes you think you

need a degree from the University of Humor to be certified successful.

Take it easy. Writing a humorous speech is not standup comedy. You don't need to make the audience laugh every six seconds. You don't need to deliver line after line of funny one-liners. You just need to sprinkle a bit of humor here and there with a key message. Just make sure you don't put the audience to sleep every 26 seconds.

This ecourse is specially designed to enhance your learning experience. When you teach a topic like this, you need more than words to get the message across. You need the readers to listen, to see, and to think. You need audio and video to enhance it. Thanks to the internet, this ecourse is able to bring to life techniques and ideas in a manner that will enhance your learning experience. When you see the Video Icon below, click on the icon and it takes you to a video on YouTube as long as you have an internet connection.



This is a humorous speech workshop, which you can attend and learn at your own pace. If you watch all the videos recommended here, it will take you 90 minutes or more. Best of all, you can even retake this ecourse as many times as you want. You really can't find this anywhere.

Start learning now!

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Lesson 1

The Humorous Speech

What is a humorous speech?

My answer is, it is a Cha Cha dance. Two, Three, Cha Cha Cha. It is fun, playful, and entertaining. The speech often has a certain pattern. The speaker delivers a few funny lines followed by a few lines in a more serious note. The speaker lightens the mood of the audience by creating exaggerations and surprises, and then brings them back to reality with a more serious mood.

This pattern is repeated many times in a speech. Just like doing the cha cha dance, if you get the steps and the rhythm right, you can make a great speech.



A humorous speech is like any speech you make, it must have an introduction, body, and conclusion. It must have a clear message for the audience. The only difference is it must contain some materials that are amusing, funny or surprising, and of course, you must remember to use the twelve humor techniques, found in Lesson 3, when you craft your speech.

Judging Criteria For Humorous Speech Contest

The areas of assessment in the Judge's form cover the areas shown in the following page.

You will discover that out of 100 points, 55 points are allocated for speech content.

Speech Content

There are four sections on speech content. Let us look at them.

1) Speech Development (15 points)

The speech should have a structure with a proper opening, body, and conclusion with good supporting materials. If you take the entire seven minutes of the given time telling joke after joke without any

Assessment And Points For A Humorous Speech

Areas Judged	Excellent	V. Good	Good	Fair
Speech Development Structure, opening, body, support material	15	12	10	5
Effectiveness Excitement, suspense, the unexpected twist, surprise, connection of humorous events, achievement of purpose	15	12	10	5
Speech Value Ideas, originality of thoughts & material	15	12	10	5
Audience Response Attentiveness, laughter, interest, reception	10	8	6	4
Physical Appearance, body language	10	8	6	4
Voice Flexibility, volume	10	8	6	4
Manner Directness, enthusiasm, assurance	10	8	6	4
Appropriateness Speech purpose and audience, reflecting good taste	10	8	6	4
Correctness Grammar, pronunciation, word selection, use of dialect, vernacular	5	4	3	2
Total Points	(100 points possible)			

purpose other than to make people laugh, you will score very low on speech development. Let me give you my own guidelines of what may comprise speech development.

Besides a proper opening, body, and conclusion, your speech must possess the W.W.W structure, like this:

- What is it all about?
- What are your key ideas and supporting materials?
- What is your call for action?

2) Effectiveness (15 points)

Your speech must have the elements of excitement, surprise, suspense, humorous events, twists, and a purpose. If you use the techniques explained in the chapters that follow, you will obtain a great score in this section.

3) Speech Value (15 points)

The speech should contain original ideas. If your speech includes your own perspective that shows originality and creativity, you will score high on this. As previously mentioned, your speech must have a purpose. What do you want the audience to know or do after listening to your speech? It must answer the question of “Okay, you are funny, so what?”

4) Audience Response (10 points)

The speech should capture the attention and interest of the audience and make the audience laugh.

Speech Delivery

Now, let's look at the point allotment for your speech delivery. The delivery of a speech is judged in three sections.

1) Physical (10 points)

The speaker will be judged based on his appearance and his use of body language through facial expression, gestures, body movement, etc, to deliver his speech.

2) Voice (10 points)

The speaker will be judged on the use of vocal variety, which comprises, pace and pitch, tones and volume, as well as the elements of vocal variety.

3) Manner (10 points)

What is manner of delivery? The speaker is judged on whether he is able to connect with the audience. Does the speaker speak with passion and enthusiasm? Is the speaker speaking with conviction and self-confidence?

To me, it is all about whether the speaker has good style and influence on the audience in the entire speech. If your audience feels they would rather listen to your speech with their eyes closed, I think you will get zero on this particular assessment. If you can get my attention, make me sit up, look at you, and listen earnestly, you should score high in this area.

4) Appropriateness (10 points)

There are many taboo topics to be avoided if you want to win the contest. Your speech must have a proper purpose and the topic must be appropriate

and in good taste. Some of the topics to be avoided include sex, religion, race, gender, and social class. Do not create humor at the expense of the audience. This means you cannot talk about your sexual escapades or your own sexual problems or use your favorite swear words in your speech to make it funny.

5) Correctness (5 points)

ONLY five points are allotted to grammar, pronunciation, and word choice, but this does not mean you should ignore them all together.

Now that you know how you will be judged, let's move on to Lesson 2 on how you should start drafting a humorous speech.



**"You Don't Have To Look
Like This To Be Funny!"**

Lesson 2

Where to Find Ideas for Your Speech?

Ideas are everywhere. They can come from the news, personal encounters, things you hear from your friends and colleagues, the internet, and many more sources. But the best ideas come from the things that you feel strongly about either in a positive or negative way.

Positive And Negative Passions

The things you feel strongly about in a positive manner could be things you are passionate about, things you believe in, things you love, and things that capture

your interests. For instance, if you are female and are crazy about shopping, then that is a great topic for you. You can craft a speech about being a shopaholic or share with your audience the list of crazy things you bought over the years and why you bought them. You can also talk about the reasons why you should never bring your boyfriends or husband with you when you shop because they can spoil the entire shopping experience. But, if you are male and love shopping, this is an even better topic! The reason is that most people regard shopping as a woman thing, so when a male says he loves shopping, it becomes interesting and this is a twist from the norm.

Turn Negative Things Into Topics

Things that invoke negative feelings may be the things that irritate you when they cross your mind. The things you hate are also potential speech topics.



"Hmm....Let me see, I hate my Boss, my mother-in-law and"

For instance, many men perceive women as bad drivers who like to switch lanes without giving any warning just like the way they change boyfriends. So, if you choose a topic like this, you can talk about how bad woman drivers are and maybe suggest funny solutions on how they can become better drivers.

Ask yourself what it is that you cannot stand. Do you hate your boss? Can you make it into a speech

Speech 3 Analysis

The idea for this speech came natural to me because I am a real sucker for motivational books. I have read so many of them over the years and one day I realized that they all talk about the same thing in different ways. How much truth can we trust? So it was titled, “What the motivational gurus didn’t tell you!” I was left to discover the real truth. The key message for this speech is — negativity has its value and you should never be too happy or sad for anything that happens in your life.

Techniques Used in This Speech

1) Exaggeration With Amplification

I exaggerated how negative I was before I started reading those motivational books with this paragraph.

Long before I started reading these books, I was a negative person. I walked into a lift and I saw a girl flashing a smile at me. The first thing I did was to turn my head and look behind to see if there was a handsome man behind me. If no one was there, I would touch my head, to feel for a patch of sticky hair gel. If nothing was there, I felt for my zipper, to check if my fly was opened. If everything was fine, I looked down on the floor.

To exaggerate the extent of the negativity and to make my lines more interesting, I decided to create a sequence of exaggerations to explain my point. These series of exaggerations serve to amplify my point of being negative, and at the same time, painted some visuals for the audience. These lines also gave me the chance to act out so I could score a few points on using gestures and facial expressions. As mentioned in my book many times, if you don't script it, you don't get it!

2) The Before And After Technique

I used the before and after technique to tell the audience I was a loser before but now I am not:

... But those motivation books really work! Now, given the same scenario when I see a girl flashing a smile at me in the lift, I get excited, my heart goes ZOOM ZOOM like a F1 racing car. Then I flash my smile and I say:

"You have a beautiful smile, as warm as the morning sun. I don't think we have met. I live on the tenth floor. Are you going to work?"

3) Self-deprecating Humor

I demonstrated once again how to make yourself the target of your own humor with these lines:

... They tell you negative emotions do more harm than good. So, today I have almost become a skirt chaser. I cannot resist a pick-up line every time I see a pretty lady. I have to restrain myself from committing adultery every day.

4) Repetition

Repetition is a common rhetorical device to give your speech the rhythm that it needs. I repeated the words “We think” and “So we ...” in these lines: The punch line comes in the last part of this segment.

Think about this. We think we will drown, so we learn to swim. We think we will die early, so we buy insurance policies, we think we will die from stage fright so we become a toastmaster.

5) Create a Character and Let it Speaks

Some things are better said when it is said by someone other than yourself. Let a character say it. In this speech, I crafted a line for ‘my grandmother’.

But, luckily, I remember what my grandmother told me. She said:

“Never believe everything you read in the books.” One plus one is not always equal to two but eleven.

By bringing in a character and give him or her a line, you add vocal variety.

6) Use of A Familiar Anecdote

I decided to plant the little bird and cow dung story, which I assumed many have heard before and knew the moral of the story. The moral of that story was rather crude when I first heard it. It goes – If you know you are in deep shit, keep your mouth shut! Since it is a toastmaster environment I decided I had to be more politically correct and I tweaked the Four Letter Word. However, for some members of the audience who are hearing it for the first time, it is fine for they will not miss anything since I told a full story. It is like you can use the tortoise and hare story and give it a new twist to the moral of the story.