

Your Next Speaker *Strategies*

Q&A Session

- First thought is, "Where can I pull an answer for this question from my speech?"
- Use specific case studies for answers – i.e. John Smith, the turnip green farmer in Spiro, Oklahoma uses this biotech practice to accomplish this task.
- Have both types of answers ready; three-pointed answers and short, simple to the point answers
- Bring everything back to your main Statement of Purpose (Biotechnology in American agriculture brings more benefits than harms to the table) and your main points
- Learn the basic information of everything you mention in the speech
- Research the impact of the most recent farm bill on your speech's topic
- Everything in your speech is up for discussion
- Have a more conversational tone during the Q&A session
- Throw in some data, facts, stories in your answers
- This MOST IMPORTANT TIME is about 1) Extemp (your ability to think on your feet) and 2) Depth of Knowledge

Non-Verbals

Walking

- Walk only at paragraph breaks and/or at thought changes
- Get away from the arm lock by dropping one hand when you are standing and/or drop the backside arm and gesture only with the frontside arm when you are walking
- Only speak to the side of the room you are walking towards

Gestures

- Get out of the box with your gestures in about 3-5 different key spots throughout your speech
- When you are making lists, make some sort of definitive (but subtle) counting gesture
- If your hands do touch, make certain they are just resting temporarily

Manuscript

- Use a simple coil binding with a simple cover that includes your speech title, your name and your chapter

Bibliography

- Make sure you have at least three different types of sources and at least two entries of each type
- Have some current year entries
- The most impressive entries are personal interviews with state or national individuals

Misc.

- Make some sort of change (tempo, volume, pause, gesture) at either your main points or your key lines
- Get your Statement of Purpose firm in your mind – this is where you get the entire purpose and meaning of your speech down to roughly 10 words
- Go through your speech and figure out exactly your 3-5 main points of the speech
- Smiling is great, but remember to be and look serious when you are giving serious points in your speech
- Get your time down to about 30 seconds short of the maximum time limit
- Don't just talk about a topic – take a stance, make an opinion, break your topic down to a specific situation within that topic that makes the topic come alive!