

# INFORMATIVE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
INTRO TACTICS:			
Credibility	_____	_____	_____
Set tone	_____	_____	_____
Thesis	_____	_____	_____
Transition	_____	_____	_____
BODY:			
Organization	_____	_____	_____
Coherence	_____	_____	_____
Transitions	_____	_____	_____
CONCLUSION:			
Summary	_____	_____	_____
Unity	_____	_____	_____
Decisiveness	_____	_____	_____
OVERALL:			
Application of lecture material	_____	_____	_____
Use of vivid language	_____	_____	_____
Supporting material	_____	_____	_____

**COMMENTS:**

**NEXT SPEECH:**

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

# MEMORIZED

Name \_\_\_\_\_

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
INTRO TACTICS:			
<i>Ethos</i>	_____	_____	_____
Set tone	_____	_____	_____
Transition	_____	_____	_____
BODY:			
Focus	_____	_____	_____
Style	_____	_____	_____
Fluidity	_____	_____	_____
Inflection	_____	_____	_____
OVERALL:			
Memory	_____	_____	_____
Depth of interpretation	_____	_____	_____
Confidence	_____	_____	_____
Application of lecture material	_____	_____	_____

**COMMENTS:**

Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

# IMITATIO

Name \_\_\_\_\_

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
INTRO TACTICS:			
<i>Ethos</i>	_____	_____	_____
Set tone	_____	_____	_____
Thesis	_____	_____	_____
Transition	_____	_____	_____
BODY:			
Organization	_____	_____	_____
<i>Logos</i>	_____	_____	_____
Pathos	_____	_____	_____
Style	_____	_____	_____
Coherence	_____	_____	_____
Transitions	_____	_____	_____
CONCLUSION:			
Unity	_____	_____	_____
Decisiveness	_____	_____	_____
OVERALL:			
Depth of analysis	_____	_____	_____
Relevance	_____	_____	_____
Application of lecture material	_____	_____	_____

**COMMENTS:**

Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluator duties:**

The aim of the evaluator is to actively listen to the speakers and then offer a brief oral critique, when everyone is done speaking for the day, that addresses the following: how well the speaker met assignment requirements, whether or not the speaker exceeded them, specific feedback regarding both strengths and suggestions for improvement. Allow a moment or two for audience feedback after each evaluation. The evaluator's job should take no more than one minute per speaker, then there should be plenty of time for any further comments from the audience. Determine ahead of time (just before class starts) who will evaluate whom.

**M.C. duties:**

The Master of Ceremonies is responsible for setting a positive tone for the speech round by providing clever opening remarks and a brief (very brief!) introduction for each speaker and each evaluator. The M.C. should watch the clock to make sure class ends promptly at 10 'til the hour, lead the applause after each speech, and close out the speech round on a positive note.

**Table Topics duties:**

As Table Topics leader you are to select three or four topics upon which you can ask your audience questions that they discuss for 1-2 minutes. This is a game where people develop the ability to think quickly on their feet. So, to maximize the game, ask your question first, then call on someone (that heightens the suspense!).

## About the Imitatio Assignment

This speech is weighted double because you are expected to labor over it, reflect on it and, especially, reflect *in* it your ability to apply what you've learned this semester. To that end, I suggest that, in the process of doing the worksheet, you come up with a working title for your speech, develop a rough idea of how you want to approach this assignment, and then reflect on it for a day or two. When you are ready to work on it again, take up your "lump of clay" and start to shape it. Work out the sections of your speech that will be directly paraphrased from the memorized speech. Now, shape the original portions of your speech, looking especially for ways that you can utilize figures of speech, etc. to make your speech sublime.\* Lay it down. After having worked on other assignments for awhile :-), return to your composition, take it up and ask yourself, "What am I trying to say here?" Polish it. Refine it. And when you listen to it and exclaim, "That's as good as I can get it, if I add any more it would be overkill," then you are ready to begin practicing. Practice until you are familiar enough with the speech to barely need your manuscript.

So, this speech is about capitalizing on the strongest, most relevant features of your memorized speech in the following ways:

1. Paraphrase those parts of the speech that are most suitable for paraphrasing.
2. "Pull forward" that aspect of the speech (the most enduring idea) that is most relevant to us today, by applying the idea to a particular situation, societal trend, attitude, etc.
3. Emulate those aspects of your speaker's rhetoric most worth emulating. (This is the essence of learning by *imitatio*.)
4. Speak in an eloquent, as opposed to extemporaneous, style. (I.e., refine your language by using figures of speech, but don't *overuse* them!)
5. Address all the items on the critique sheet.
6. Come visit your humble servant for some coaching (it's his *forté*!).

On the day you present your speech, all you need is a manuscript from which to speak and two copies of the critique sheet.

Don't forget to have fun!

\* When I say "sublime" I don't mean perfection. Aim for a speech that has one or two moments of sheer brilliance. Those should suffice!

## Imitatio Speech Worksheet

20 pts. possible

Name \_\_\_\_\_

My memorized speech is \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

What is the most powerful idea in your memorized speech? What makes it so powerful?

What contemporary situation do you plan to address in order to demonstrate the continued relevance of that idea to your present audience? Why?

What stylistic features of the speaker's rhetoric do you find most excellent?

How do you plan to imitate that stylistic excellence in your composition? Improve on it?

## THE IMPROMPTU SPEECH

For this speech, you will draw from the impromptu topics you have been studying. Pick a single card from three decks of your choosing. From the three, speak on the one with which you feel most comfortable. If none of them appeals to you, just choose the lesser of evils and run with it! You now have a total of 6 minutes to prepare and deliver the speech. Try splitting your time right down the middle: 3 minutes prep time and 3 minutes for your speech.

You will be graded on the basis of the following criteria: How well your introduction sets the tone for the speech, establishes your ethos, motivates the speech and provides a clear thesis. How well the body of the speech is organized, and how coherent, clear and focused it is. Whether or not you close with decisiveness and provide unity in the conclusion. Overall criteria are: substance, imagination and speech basics.

Pointers:

1. Have fun!
2. Ensure you (a) do your homework, or (b) have a quick enough wit to come up with something clever, and substantive, "off the cuff."
3. After you draw, use the 5 canons of rhetoric as an action guide to "think quickly on your feet."
4. Decide your angle, develop a simple outline, then immediately focus on stylistic strategizing (develop a running metaphor, analogy, etc.). That is, look for those places in your speech where emphasis is needed, and provide for it.
5. Rehearse at least once, in your mind, focusing on introductory and concluding tactics.
6. DO IT!

## IMPROMPTU TOPICS

### Science

E = mc<sup>2</sup>  
Newton  
Copernicus  
Galileo  
Darwin

Marie Curie  
The Human Body  
Space exploration  
Dinosaurs  
The Computer Age

### Industry

Ben Franklin  
Fulton  
Edison  
Alexander Graham Bell  
Carnegie  
Horatio Alger  
Henry Ford

### History

"Here I Stand"--Martin Luther  
Gettysburg Address  
Civil War  
Bolshevik Revolution  
French Revolution  
American Revolution  
Civil Rights Movement--M. L. King, Jr.  
Pick a World War  
Gandhi  
Columbus  
Guttenberg

### Geography

Great Explorers  
South Dakota  
Sioux Lands  
Amerigo Vespucci  
U.S. Geography  
Europe  
Asia  
Pick a hemisphere

### Math

Euclidean Geometry  
History of our Numerical System  
Roman Numerals

Algebra  
Pythagoras

### Agriculture

Mendel  
The Cotton Gin  
The Railroads  
No-till farming

All about Soil  
Dust Bowl Era  
Technological advances  
Genetic engineering

### Religion

Judaism  
Islam  
Christianity  
Hinduism  
Buddhism

Native American religions  
Any great figure  
Any great movement  
Doctrines (interesting, controversial)  
Ancient or unusual religions

### Political Science

Aristotle's Politics  
Plato's Republic  
The Federalist Papers  
Declaration of Independence  
Constitution/Bill of Rights  
Great American Presidents

Marx  
Aquinas  
The Holocaust  
Adam Smith

### Literature

Uncle Tom's Cabin  
Dostoevsky  
Melville  
Shakespeare  
Sense and Sensibility  
Aesop  
Laura Ingalls Wilder

Faulkner  
Mark Twain  
Arthurian Legend  
T.S. Eliot  
W.B. Yeats  
Tennyson

### Music

Pick a composer  
Scales

Harmony  
Orchestra

Visual Arts

Chorale

Pick an instrument

My favorite masterpiece

Pick an artist

Great Architecture

Basics of color

Styles of painting

My favorite masterpiece

Abstract vs. Realism

Fashion Industry