

Hints for your Icebreaker Speech

Here are some ideas to help you out with your icebreaker.

When you work on the icebreaker speech, it's best not to try to tell us everything about yourself. You just can't do that in 4-6 minutes. Instead, pick some aspect of your life and focus on that. For example, your family. Or your career. Or your life as a kid. Or your hobbies. Or why you joined Toastmasters. Or what you think your strengths and weaknesses are. Maybe you can combine a couple of ideas, if they're short ones. And these are just examples. Pick anything you want to tell us about yourself.

The main thing about an icebreaker is that it has 3 purposes:

- (1) to let us know a bit about you;
- (2) to start getting you feeling comfortable in front of us;
- (3) to let you know what we think are your current speaking strengths, and areas that we think you should concentrate on improving for your next speech.

That third item is a benefit of every speech you give in Toastmasters. If you don't feel that the person who evaluated you helped you enough to see your good points and areas that could be improved, ask other members for their opinions on your speech. Many members frequently ask a couple of Toastmasters for their opinions after the meeting, just so we get different viewpoints.

One thing to always remember about evaluators is they don't have all the answers and some people do a better job than others. When an evaluator says something, they're just giving you their opinion. And you don't have to agree with it. But if several people give you the same opinion, then you have to start giving it some serious thought.

Communi-Cats wants to help you start out your speaking workshop experience in the best way possible. So, if you have any questions about anything, or want some help with your speech, just let us know. If you haven't been assigned a mentor, or don't know who it is, ask one of the club officers. You should strongly consider having that person or a friend listen to your Ice Breaker before the meeting, just to increase your comfort level, and maybe offer some suggestions.

Good luck with your speech!