

## Speech #4 – Inspirational Personal Tribute (100 pts)

**Inspirational Personal Tribute Speech** (4-5 mins.) Purpose: To praise and evaluate favorably the personal qualities, accomplishments, and benefits to society gained through the subject's achievements and influence upon people. Common examples of epideictic (inspirational) speeches include sermons, eulogies, political speeches, valedictions, commencements, and inaugural addresses. By nature, this type of speech assumes a favorable audience for whom you are merely reinforcing the ideas, values, and beliefs they already possess. Therefore, you are NOT seeking to persuade your audience to take action by changing a belief or action. Similarly, you are NOT merely informing your audience by presenting a biographical sketch of a well-known person. Instead, you want to **inspire the audience concerning the importance** of your subject's personal qualities, accomplishments, and beneficial influence on society through highlighting a series of reflective examples. Remember, the tone of this speech should be uplifting, so effective use of stylistic devices and an evocative delivery are paramount for success. This speech privileges PATHOS over logos and ethos and requires heartfelt sincerity in delivery.

Selecting a topic: It is essential that you choose a well-known person for tribute (living or dead) whom you greatly admire and believe lived a commendable life. This assignment is not an opportunity for parody – your tribute must be entirely sincere. You should lift-up the finer qualities and characteristics of your subject, so avoid a someone who may exhibit athletic, artistic, or political merit, but whose personal life is less than admirable. The tribute is intended to stimulate audience members to think favorably about the subject and to inspire them to nobler heights by virtue of the examples set by the person being praised.

Developing your topic: Most tributes follow a chronological order in which you present events in the order in which they occurred. As you touch upon these broad and influential events in the subject's life, you will point to them as evidence of

- the qualities the subject stood for and his/her accomplishments
- the nature of his or her influence upon society
- the subject's probable place in history as a result of his/her accomplishments

Avoid composing a simple biographical sketch – your purpose is to inspire, not simply inform. You want to shape the audience's opinion of the subject by exploring how he or she overcame struggles to achieve greatness, contributed to the development of new ideas or new ways to look at issues in life, served sectors of society or society at large. Think about how you can magnify your subject's place in history and the cause for which they sacrificed through imagery, figurative language, and allusions.

Source material for specific details to illustrate your subject's contributions may be found in *Who's Who*, encyclopedias, biographies, and other similar internet sources. Use verbal tags to cite your sources.

Stylistic Devices are essential:

- You can use an **anecdote** or short **narrative** to enlarge a value. For example, you can explore perseverance through a story of someone's struggle with cancer.
- **Reiteration** of points can increase the emotion in the speech and call attention to the ideas you want to emphasize.
- **Metaphors** and **similes** can embellish or enhance the effect on your audience.
- **Verbs** need to be active, colorful, and vivid.
- **Magnification** is the technique of selecting and promoting features of a subject for the purpose of emphasizing values, usually those most dramatic. For example, in a speech on moral conviction, a startling statement like "let's not be so open-minded that our brains fall out" magnifies the importance of taking a stand.

- **Climax** is important in an epideictic speech to build effect. Save your most striking or amusing stories, your most telling points until the end of the speech.
- The way you **arrange** your sentences – both in syntax and order – will affect the impact of the speech. **Parallel** structure, short staccato sentences and long florid ones affect the mood and pull of the speech.

**Delivery** is an important tool to inspire the audience: Delivery is more complicated in an epideictic speech because you are heightening audience’s personal values and emotions. Your speech must be both formal and emotionally emphatic. Your tone must be uplifting and inspirational. To encourage a genuinely extemporaneous delivery, you are limited to **5 index cards** – one per organizational unit – within the speech. Remember, you do not want to read off your cards unless you are quoting lines from an outside source. Make your print large enough that you can see your key word prompts at a quick glance. Your delivery needs to be sincere, dynamic and enthusiastic. Memorizing your speech will take away from the authenticity of your energy and sincerity of speaking genuinely from the heart.

Have fun!

**Inspirational Personal Tribute Speech Outline Rubric**  
(each bullet is worth +/- 5 points)

1. Thesis Statement \_\_\_\_\_/ 15 pts.
  - Thesis listed at the top of outline
  - Narrows topic and fits assignment
  - Previews three main points of argument in body
2. Outline elements for introduction \_\_\_\_\_/ 20 pts.
  - Includes hook
  - Includes background info (including subject’s first & last name & area of influence)
  - Includes thesis
  - Uses proper formal outline headings, rule of two’s, // structure
3. Outline elements for 1<sup>st</sup> body paragraph \_\_\_\_\_/ 15 pts.
  - Focuses on 1<sup>st</sup> main point from thesis
  - Includes 3 pieces of evidence about the qualities the subject stood for & accomplishments
  - Uses proper formal outline headings, rule of two’s, // structure
4. Outline elements for 2<sup>nd</sup> body paragraph \_\_\_\_\_/ 15 pts.
  - Focuses on 2<sup>nd</sup> main point from thesis
  - Includes 3 pieces of evidence about the nature of the subject’s influence upon society
  - Uses proper formal outline headings, rule of two’s, // structure
5. Outline elements for 3<sup>rd</sup> body paragraph \_\_\_\_\_/ 15 pts.
  - Focuses on 3<sup>rd</sup> main point from thesis
  - Includes 3 pieces of evidence about the subject’s probable place in history as a result of his/her accomplishments
  - Uses proper formal outline headings, rule of two’s, // structure
6. Outline elements for conclusion \_\_\_\_\_/ 20 pts.
  - Includes recap of thesis
  - Includes recap of main points
  - Includes return to hook
  - Uses proper formal outline headings, rule of two’s, // structure

**Total Score** \_\_\_\_\_/ 100 pts