



Speech Outline

Speeches occur during Moderated Caucuses, in a Speaker's List and before Voting in committee and are usually less than 2 minutes long, sometimes as brief as a sentence. You will likely be given a topic to make a speech about when the occasion arises, or if it's an opening speech, you should make a general speech on your country's position at the beginning of a committee topic discussion.

Whatever the occasion, do not fret! The best speeches are clear, thoughtful and creative. Most are improvised and you will find yourself getting the hang of speaking to your committee as long as you have a clear goal of what you want to convey and a good grasp on your topic and the current discussion.

Remember, if you do not have anything substantial to add, it is fine to cut your speech short and not use up all of your allotted time. You are not only helping yourself but also your committee by doing so. As always, you should use formal language (but can make creative analogies or speak emotionally) and refer to yourself only in third person. But slip-ups happen to everyone. If you happen to use "I", simply rephrase and continue.

Breaking down the general parts of a good speech:

- **Greeting** (optional): acknowledge your chair and committee if you wish. Ex. "Good morning, honorable chair and delegates..."
- **Attention-grabber**: this could be a statistic, a metaphor, or a short lead-in story you use to call attention to your words. Ex. "Everyday, dozens of species go extinct in the world.."
- **Action/position**: what are you asking the committee to do? What message do you want to get across? Ex. "This delegate firmly supports an immediate cease-fire"
- **Conclusion**: depending on the length of your speech, you could summarize the main points at the end. Finalize by yielding your time to the chair or making yourself open to points of information (questions). Ex. "I yield the remainder of my time to questions" or "I yield my time to the chair"

See? Speeches are pretty straightforward and good speeches come in all sorts of styles and sizes. You will have the opportunity to hear many during your time at YMUN and slowly realize you too are capable of making great speeches.



Sample Speech

Example <1 min speech before voting on a resolution:

Honorable delegates and esteemed chairs, the situation in Somalia can no longer be held off in hopes of an unrealistic peaceful unification of states without an international presence intervening in the dispute. South Africa believes that the resolution drafted by the delegate of the UK best prevents future disputes. It is a resolution that listens to the voice of the people and effectively erases their current invisibility in the Somalia dispute. As discussed previously in this committee, the difficulties brought by both leaders' refusal to negotiate has made a greater military presence necessary to pressure both sides into favoring a diplomatic approach. Despite some earlier hesitance from other delegations to vote in favor of some clauses, the delegate of South Africa now firmly believes that this resolution satisfies the interests of this committee and urges all countries to vote in its favor.