

Esoteric Wisdom

5 Steps To Become A Fearless Speaker

By John D. Lin



You can play one piano song 1,000x flawlessly. Note for note you know this one song by heart. Does this make you a great pianist? No. It makes you great at playing ONE song.

The same logic applies for public speaking.

Giving a great speech does not equate to being a great speaker.

Too many people trap themselves by memorizing a speech. They gain confidence. But change a word, a sentence, or the topic, and their confidence shrivels up. Memorizing speeches can work, but not for everyday interactions. We can't possibly memorize our response to every question being asked.

So, how do you become a fearless speaker without memorizing?

The answer lies with Cicero, the greatest Roman Orator of all time.

Living during the Roman Republic, before the rise of Caesar's Roman Empire, Cicero was regarded as the greatest statesman, lawyer, and orator. The prowess of his eloquent tongue was so feared that his assassins ripped out his tongue and nailed it in the town center for all to see!

Fortunately before his death, Cicero invented the 5 Canons of Rhetoric, 5 steps to become the greatest speaker on any topic! Follow these steps in its exact order and never fear the process of speaking again.

1. Invention 2. Arrangement 3. Style 4. Memory 5. Delivery

Here's 3 acronyms to help you remember this.

I Am So Mad Dad

I Ate So Many Donuts

Igloos Always Snow Mon Day

Now use your creativity and make up your own acronym. Doing so is actually the first canon.

Invention

The first question people ask is, "What do I talk about?" This is all creativity. Brainstorm with no holds barred. Come up with all possible topics without reservations on time, expertise, or fanaticism. Amassing a plethora of topics is great since you'll need to present ten speeches for your CC, and nearly 50 for your DTM!

Arrangement

After you arrived at 50 topic ideas, categorize them. Group them into main topics and sub-topics. Decide on ONE main topic to speak on. Now guess what? Because you already made sub-topics, you have the sub-points for your speech prepared. Just arrange the sub-points in the order you wish to present them. Congratulations! You now have all your speech content prepared in a natural free-flowing form, that's not word for word.

Style

It's time to bring your ideas on paper into the spoken word. What specific language and words will you use in your speech? What light will you shine on your topic? How will you dress to emphasize your perspective? Remember, having a speech topic is not having a speech. A speech has your specific point of view, and that's based on your selected style.

For instance, there are infinite styles to speak about birthday parties. Depending on your opinion, you can "style" a birthday party as an experience that's euphoric, annoying, surprising, boring, glamorous, or even life changing. Once you have a speech topic there are a thousand ways to speak about it. The way you present it, via your style, makes it YOUR speech.

Memory

This doesn't mean memorize your speech! It means put your speech into memory. Why don't we memorize? Because memorizing isn't KNOWING. You don't memorize reasons why you love your mother: You KNOW why. And because you know why you love your mother, you can say it a million different ways every time. Putting your speech into memory makes you become that great speaker. You can speak on any topic in any way when you know it. Almost never memorize word for word unless you are saying a quote, statistic, fact, or joke punch-line.

Delivery

Alas! This is how we're judged, how we actually speak. Your content is ready, you know how to present it, and you know it by memory. Now just let everything flow naturally. Everything from your eye contact, posture, gestures, and voice will naturally flow from your chosen style. Practice speaking your ideas numerous times, but never word-for word. Each time you speak should be unique. Remember, don't fall in love with your written words; fall in love with your verbal speaking.

Follow Cicero's 5 Canons of Rhetoric and be that fearless speaker in 2017!

John D. Lin is a National Award-Winning Professor, recognized for transforming students into young professionals through public speaking. At 21 he was the youngest International Speech Champion for Toastmasters International's District of New York and New Jersey. In memory of his grandma, John founded Speak At Your Prime, Inc, with a global mission to help professionals embrace their fear of speaking, so they may be as close to their loved ones, as he was to his grandma. For more information visit www.speakatyourprime.com@johndlinspeaks