

Impromptu Speaking

Do you struggle with impromptu speaking? Are you filled with fear and trepidation when Table Topics begins? Do you bury your head and try to 'disappear'?

Whether you are a brand new or long-time member of Toastmasters – impromptu speaking can be challenging, involving skills like thinking on your feet and fabricating stories and opinions.

The most important thing is to give it a go. Every time you take the stage will add experience and ultimately confidence for future events.

Here are a few tips for success in impromptu speaking:

1. Listen carefully to the question or topic
2. Pause
3. Confirm
4. Tell
5. End with a summary

Four common strategies

1. Express an opinion, whether the subject is light-hearted or more serious e.g. 'Do you prefer cats or dogs?' or 'what is your opinion on climate change?'
2. Pros and cons of your opinion e.g. 'I prefer dogs to cats' or 'Climate change is a fallacy'
3. Give details, examples, using What, Who, Why, Where, How? E.g. 'My dog, Tom, follows me like a shadow'
4. Discuss past, present, future e.g. 'I didn't like cricket, but since attending the Big Bash in Brisbane, I'm going to watch every game in future'

Make it your resolution to tackle Table Topics with tenacity. You can't lose!