

## Which Type of Speech Should I Write?

You've been given a broad topic for the Modern Woodmen of America School Speech Contest. There's a lot of information available on the subject, but your speech will only be a few minutes long. How do you know what to include and what to leave out? It helps to understand what choices are available to you.

**Your speech will be one of three types:**

- An **informational** speech: You give the audience *facts* about the subject.
- A **persuasive** speech: You *convince* your audience of something you believe.
- An **entertaining** speech: You share some thoughts with the audience in an *amusing* or *interesting* way.

**Which type of speech is a good “fit” for you?**

**Consider the following points:**

- Do you ...
  - Enjoy research? Trivia games?
  - Keep up with current events? Think of yourself as curious?

If so, you may be interested in giving an informational speech.

- Do you ...
  - Like to voice your opinions?
  - Discuss issues with friends, trying to get them to see your side?

If so, you may enjoy writing and delivering a persuasive speech.

- Are you ...
    - Able to tell interesting stories easily?
    - Considered to have a good sense of humor?
- If so, you might want to write an entertaining speech.

Understanding the goal of your speech helps you focus. Think before writing: *What do I want to accomplish through my speech?* Do I want to ...

- *Inspire* the audience?
- *Honor* someone or something?
- Ask the audience to *do something* about an issue?
- *Explain* something?
- *Remember* something or someone?
- Express *thanks* for someone or something?
- *Support* an issue?
- Offer a *criticism*?

