

Unit 10

Write a Speech

A speech is a prepared formal talk or an address given in public for a specific purpose.

Generate, Gather, and Organize

Read the following speech.

PM honours the victims of 9/11 and the sacrifices of
Canadians in the fight against terrorism

11 September 2009

Ottawa, Ontario

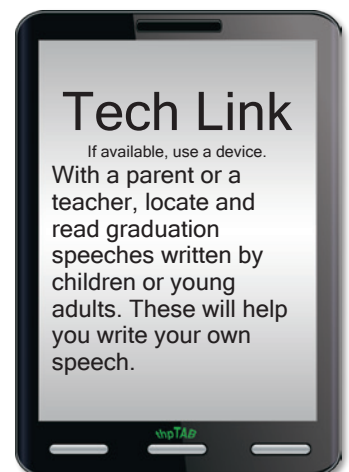
Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Thank you, Christie Blatchford, for getting us started today. I also want to commend you for the outstanding work you have done chronicling the terrible events of September 11, 2001, and the mission of the men and women of the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan. You have conveyed to your fellow Canadians with empathy and honesty the brutal reality of these human stories of courage and of sacrifice.



World Trade Center, New York City

Greetings to members of the 9/11 Memorial Committee and the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation. Thank you for organizing today's ceremony, a ceremony to commemorate the Canadian victims of 9/11 and the sacrifices of our troops in the battle against terrorism. I want to thank everyone for coming, including U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, Terry Breese, and our other American friends joining us today. I want to thank as well all my Parliamentary colleagues who are here, including Senator Wallin, Minister Van Loan, Royal Galipeau, and Leader of the Opposition, Ignatieff. It is truly an honour to share this day with you here in this special place, Canada's new National Cemetery.

Eight years on, the memory of a beautiful fall morning suddenly becoming a nightmare has lost none of its power, none of its horror, and none of its sorrow, a morning where two gigantic towers were, without warning, replaced by empty sky. We still grieve for all the innocent men, women, and children aboard the doomed airplanes. We still mourn the thousands who



perished in the collapse of the Twin Towers and the fires at the Pentagon. We are still in awe of the courage of the passengers who fought back aboard Flight 93 and of the rescue workers who risked their lives to save others in New York and Washington. And we are still confronted with the evil that inspired the terrible events of that day. More innocent lives have suffered at the hands of that evil in London, Madrid, Bali, Mumbai, and elsewhere.

The attacks on New York and Washington revealed a truth we had all sensed but were loathe to admit, that terrorism is not something that happens somewhere else to someone else. The 24 Canadians killed on 9/11 are a reminder that it can happen to us. So we have worked with the United Nations and our allies to resist and prevent terrorism where it finds sustenance and sanctuary.

The most visible symbol of these efforts has been the mission of our very best citizens, the men and women of the Canadian Forces assisted by our diplomats and development workers in the country of Afghanistan. By 2011, when this military mission ends, our Canadian soldiers will have served there a decade on the front lines, much longer than during either World War. Yet, throughout their time there, our men and women have demonstrated the same valour, skill, and commitment that has been the hallmark of Canadian soldiers, sailors, and Air Force personnel throughout our history.

Many of those who fought and gave their lives for our country rest here in Beechwood Cemetery, which became Canada's National Cemetery through an act of Parliament passed by all parties earlier this year.

So it is fitting that we are gathered here today to honour not only the memory of those Canadians who perished on 9/11, but also the great sacrifices made by those determined to prevent such a dark day from ever reoccurring. Our hearts reach out to the loved ones who are left behind. We know that you have suffered more than most of us can ever imagine.

The Canadian poet Archibald Lampman wrote of the souls resting here, and I quote: "They know no season but the end of time." But we the living know that to every thing, there is a season. 9/11 was a day of hate. Today we weep, we mourn, and we reflect. Let us pray that we heal, that we emerge from this terrible season, that our troops come home safely, and that our children treasure the peace and freedom that those who lie here gave their lives to protect.

1. *How many Canadians lost their lives on 9/11? How did our government act to resist and prevent further acts of terrorism?*
2. *How can we honour our Canadian Afghan War veterans?*

There are several types of speeches you can write.

The Informative Speech

The focus of the speech is on sharing information. It informs the audience about experiences or facts. “How to Raise Guppies” and “The Good Work Done by Food Bank Volunteers” are sample topics for this type of speech.

The Persuasive Speech

You are trying to convince your audience to agree with certain ideas or beliefs when you make a persuasive speech. “Why Girls Should Be Allowed On Boys’ Hockey Teams” and “Why We Must Start Using Electric Cars” are possible topics.

The Humorous Speech

Entertaining is the purpose of this type of speech. A series of short humorous stories all on the same topic is a way to structure a humorous speech. “Five Good Reasons for Not Keeping a Pet Raccoon” and “My Mischievous Little Brother” could be topics for humorous speeches.

Consider these questions before you begin.

Who will read or hear my speech? (classmates, younger students, parents . . .)

Why am I writing this speech? (to inform, persuade, humour . . .)

Which form will I use? (informative, persuasive, humorous . . .)

Selecting a Topic

Consider possible topics that you think will be of interest to your audience. Do not pick a topic that is too general. “Animals Around the World” could be too general while “Bears of North America” could be specific enough. Select a topic.

My Topic: _____

Complete the writing plan below.

Speech Plan

What do you already know about this topic? List this information in point form on the lines below.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

What would you like to learn about this topic? List up to eight questions below.

1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____
6.	_____
7.	_____
8.	_____

To answer the questions above, you will need to do research. Perhaps you will consult a family member, a librarian, or an expert. You may need to research your answers in books, magazines, or the internet. In point form, record your answer to each question above on the following page.

Subtopic One

Subtopic Two

Subtopic Three

Subtopic Four

Subtopic Five

Subtopic Six

Review the information in each box. Decide which subtopic should come first, second, last, and so on in your draft. Number each box above in the order you will present your information.

Draft and Revise

Write the first draft of your speech below. Organize the information from the previous pages and write in complete sentences. Use the organizer below.

Introduction

The introduction should be short and as interesting as possible. This is where you let the audience know about your topic. Catch the attention of the audience using one of the techniques below.

Tell a funny story related to the topic.

Use a quotation from a famous person or an expert.

Start with a challenging question.

Show the importance of your topic by listing startling facts about it.

Language Link

Your speech will be made up of a series of paragraphs, each presenting a main idea to support your topic. Often, these will be expository paragraphs, but narrative and descriptive paragraphs can be used as well. See pages 73-76 to learn more about these types of paragraphs.

Conclusion

The ending should be short. It should help the audience to remember the main points in a dramatic way. Interesting techniques for concluding a speech are as follows:

Use a quote from an expert or literature.

Tell a short funny story to emphasize your main point.

Call on the audience to support your idea and to do something to help promote that idea.

Edit, Proofread, and Publish

Revise

Improve your draft by revising it. Revisions may include:

- adding ideas
- leaving out ideas
- exchanging one idea for another
- adding charts or graphs
- rearranging your ideas
- improving your sentences
- improving your wording
- adding diagrams or photographs

Edit

Improve your draft by editing it with others. Ask a writing partner, teacher, editorial group, or members of your family to help you edit your draft. Make sure you:

- clearly state what you want to say
- include all necessary information
- write a good beginning, middle, and ending
- choose effective words
- vary sentence length and construction
- stay on topic

Proofread

Improve your draft by proofreading it, or have someone else proofread it. Keep the following questions in mind when proofreading.

- Did you use capital letters correctly?
- Have you punctuated your sentences properly?
- Did you spell words correctly?
- Did you write in complete sentences?
- Is your handwriting clear and easy to read?

Write the final draft of your speech. Share your speech with your intended audience. Other people may be interested in your speech. Will you use any of the following to share your work?

- read it to a partner
- read it to your family
- publish it in a school newspaper
- read it to the class
- use it to create a radio broadcast
- read it to a small group
- give it to your teacher to present on the whiteboard
- record an audio version
- display it on a bulletin board
- read it to your teacher
- post it in your blog
- give it to other classes to read
- use it to create a webcast

Language Link

Review pages 77-80 to learn more about punctuation. This will be especially important when you present your speech.

Reflect

Voice, pronunciation, posture, and gestures are very important elements of presenting a speech.

Voice

Your voice should be loud enough to be heard by everyone, but don't shout. Your voice should be pleasant and used in a relaxed, natural manner. Volume, pitch, and rate should be varied according to the material being presented in the speech.

Pronunciation

Be careful to avoid slurring, e.g. "wanna," "gonna," "gimme," "doncha." Good pronunciation requires constant practice. Consciously use your tongue, teeth, and lips to pronounce words correctly.

Posture

In public speaking, non-verbal language and body action should be natural. The body should be used with the voice. The body should be used to emphasize points. Good posture is essential for helping the speaker breathe properly and thus allow the fuller use of the voice. The speaker should:

- stand straight with both feet kept apart and one foot slightly forward.
- avoid shifting from one foot to the other.
- avoid leaning on objects and fidgeting.
- look directly at the audience. Attention should be shifted from one area of the audience to another, but not too rapidly.

Gestures

Gestures are like words and should only be used when they mean something. The speaker should use natural gestures that follow the thoughts of the speaker. No one gesture should be used too often. Gestures should be varied just as words are varied.

Extend

- To deliver a speech you may read it, do it from memory, or use cards or notes.
- Be interested in your subject so as to make your audience interested.
- Listen to an audio recording of your speech so you can work on your weaknesses and realize your strengths.
- Practice saying your speech in front of a mirror to focus on your posture, gestures, and eye contact.
- Present your speech to a friendly audience first. Presenting to a friend or members of your family should help you build confidence.

