



CONVERSATIONAL DELIVERY

The most effective speakers have a conversational delivery in their speeches. Keeping the speech flowing and relaxed not only keeps the speaker calm, but it also keeps the audience interested.

- **Knowledge:** Similar to when you are deciding on a topic (See Topic Selection Resource), being knowledgeable about your topic will help maintain a conversational quality throughout your speech.
- **Eschew Obfuscation:** Do you know what eschew obfuscation means? It essentially means, “don’t use large, hard to understand words.” Sometimes specific topics (especially scientific or medically related topics) involve complicated theories and words. Try to use only vocabulary with which your audience is familiar. If it is absolutely necessary to introduce new vocabulary, be sure to give clear definitions.
- **Goodwill:** You should establish goodwill with your audience. You should be excited and interested in your topic, but you do not want your audience to get the wrong impression that you “know it all.” Present your arguments, but *let* the audience agree with you, do not *make* them agree with you.
- **Eye Contact:** Try to make as much eye contact as possible; this keeps the audience interested.
- **Spontaneity:** Memorizing a speech can make your presentation monotone and boring. Allow yourself to be spontaneous.
- **Pitch:** Vary the pitch of your voice to add color and life to your speech.
- **Dynamic:** Your voice and your movements should be dynamic to keep the attention of your audience. Just be careful not to over do it!
- **Lose The Note Cards:** Using note cards can sometimes hurt eye contact, spontaneity, and conversational delivery in general. If you feel comfortable, try giving your speech without note cards.
- **Relax:** You know more about your speech than your audience. You did the research, so be confident in your speech. Staying relaxed will help you survive!