

THE REHEARSAL PROCESS FOR SPEECHES

The following is an outline of a typical rehearsal process in theatre adapted for use in preparing speeches. Major goals are given here for your information.

I. THE SIT-DOWN READING & DISCUSSION (TABLE WORK)

The focus here is on story and making sense of it all. Do you have a clear and specific Central Idea? Beats and Objectives are also discovered in this process as well as an outline for further process on your speech. Specific attention is also given to the audience. Who are you speaking to and what is the central idea you want to express to them in particular?

II. BLOCKING REHEARSALS

The initial movement you will use as you share your speech. This is tied to what you want to communicate in each beat (objectives). Get on your feet and adjust your movements for optimum impact and efficiency on stage.

III. OFF-BOOK REHEARSALS

The painfully essential time when you struggle to free yourself from the text of your speech and claim ownership of the material by memorizing it completely. You must be Off-Book before you can move on to the next step.

IV. WORKING REHEARSALS

The most creative time for you. Now you work to sharpen intentions by testing objectives and deepening understanding. New ideas come out of the unexpected and spontaneous moments of improvisation where you are free to discover through "play".

V. RUN-THROUGHS

Bringing together all the pieces, beat by beat. A partner can give you notes towards adjustment and clarification of all of the points related to your central idea and your choice of objectives. The goal is to keep going in order to give you a sense of continuity and seamlessness.

VI. SPECIAL SCENES

Time is given to those parts of your speech that require more attention. They become more apparent after having run-through the speech a few times. Make sure to allow time in your schedule for this specific polishing. Details, details, details.

XI. DRESS REHEARSAL

Another complete and uninterrupted run-through of the speech. Again, the goal is to keep going in order to give you a sense of continuity and seamlessness.

XII. OPENING NIGHT

Good Luck!