Humorously Speaking
Project Speech Criteria

Warm Up Your Audience
For this project, you will prepare and present a five- to seven-minute speech that begins with a humorous story. You may choose any speech topic you wish; however, your opening humorous story should tie into the subject. Although you may base your story on an actual personal experience, you may wish instead to use one from your “Humor File.” Be sure to “personalize” the story. Rehearse until you can deliver the story smoothly and effortlessly, paying careful attention to pauses, the punch line, and the punch word.

Leave Them With A Smile
For this project, you will prepare and present a five- to seven-minute speech that begins and ends with a humorous story. Choose any speech topic you wish, but your speech should contain a serious message. The opening humorous story should tie into the subject and the closing humorous story should reemphasize the main point of your speech. Although you may base your story on an actual personal experience, you may wish instead to use one from your “Humor File.” Be sure to “personalize” the story. Rehearse until you can deliver the story smoothly and effortlessly, paying careful attention to the set-up, the pause before the punch line, the punch line, the punch word, and the ending pause.

Make Them Laugh
For this project, you will prepare and present a five- to seven-minute speech that begins with humorous stories and has several jokes throughout the speech body. You may choose any speech topic you wish. Your opening humorous story should tie into the subject. The jokes should emphasize points and/or break up tedious or complex parts of the speech. The closing humorous story should reemphasize the main point of your speech. You may base your stories and jokes on actual person experiences or use stories and jokes from other sources. Rehearse until you can deliver the stories and jokes smoothly and effortlessly, paying careful attention to the set-ups, pauses before the punch lines, punch words and ending pauses.

Keep Them Laughing
For this project, you will prepare and present a five- to seven-minute speech that:

• Begins with a self-deprecating joke
• Has at least two sets of jokes in the speech body, with each set composed of several jokes, and
• Ends with a humorous story

You may choose any speech topic you wish. Each set of jokes should emphasize points and/or break up tedious or complex parts of the speech. The closing humorous story should reemphasize the main point of your speech. You may base your stories and jokes on actual personal experiences or use stories
and jokes from other sources. Rehearse until you can deliver the story smoothly and effortlessly, paying careful attention to the set-up, the pause before the punch line, the punch line, the punch word, and the ending pause.

**The Humorous Speech**

For this project, you will prepare and present a five- to seven-minute humorous speech. The speech's primary purpose is to entertain the audience. The speech should have one theme or subject, with humor about that subject. The speech should have a point, but the point is not the speech’s main purpose. The humor should come from exaggeration of events. Use body language and voice to enhance and dramatize the speech.