Storytelling
Project Speech Criteria

The Folk Tale
Select and tell a 7 to 9 minute folk tale. Use your voice and imagery to project the meaning, emotion and action of the story. If necessary, ask your audience in advance to pretend to be the age that you designate if the story you select is for an age group other than that of your audience.

Let’s Get Personal
For this project, create, rehearse and tell a 6 to 8 minute story based on your own personal experience. Use vivid description and dialogue to bring life to the story. You should tell the story without a script or notes. Some suggestions for story topics are:
- The day your daughter or son left for college
- Buying your first car, house, etc.
- Your fishing vacation
- The day you met the person whom you later married

The setting for your storytelling should be informal and the atmosphere relaxed and intimate. Ask your listeners to sit in a semicircle facing you. Don’t stand behind a lectern or other obstacle. You don’t want any barriers between your listeners and you.

The Moral of the Story
For this project, you have several options:

1. Create and tell a new story with a moral or a lesson. The story and lesson should be original.

2. Take a lesson or moral from another story or quote, then create and deliver an original story to go with it. For example, you could take the lesson from “The Hare and the Tortoise” and create a new story that has that lesson.

Whichever option you choose, be sure to follow the story elements of plot, setting, conflict, action and character development, and do not use a script or notes when telling the story. The 4 to 6 minute story should be entertaining and may be humorous. Use natural gestures and body movements.

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**The Touching Story**

Prepare, rehearse and deliver a 6 to 8 minute story designed to arouse emotion in your listeners. Be sure to include all of the elements of a story -- plot, setting, conflict, action and character development -- keep it moving and building to a climax. You should tell the story without a script or notes. Maintain direct eye contact with your audience. Use natural gestures and body movements.

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**Bringing History to Life**

Select, prepare, rehearse and tell a 7 to 9 minute story about a historical event or person. The event or person may be mythical (for example, a story about Zeus), imaginative, fictional or real. For example, you could tell a story about George Washington Carver, Eleanor Roosevelt, Winston Churchill or Mahatma Gandhi.

Be sure your story has a plot, setting, conflict, characters and action and builds to a climax. Use description and dialogue to add feeling to your story. If necessary, cut the story to fit the project requirements. If needed, prepare a brief introduction that will provide your listeners with a synopsis of the action up to the point where your story begins.

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