# Asserting Individuality

# Culture Speech – Speech 2

**Purpose of Assignment:**

The primary purpose of this assignment is to prepare and present a speech that asserts one’s individuality. Continually, speakers engage in communication that reveals who they are as people. However, in some instances, asserting individuality can be a specific speaking goal. Examples of this include a job interview, an instructor’s first day of class introduction, a first conversation with another person, or a first date. In such instances, speakers project their personalities, seek self-identification, assert themselves, and manage identity to facilitate others’ understanding of their perspectives and standpoint. For this speech, you are required to assert your individuality. Choose one important aspect of your identity to present to others; you must describe how your choice in topic informs your sense of self.

Presentations asserting individuality take many forms, one of which is the speech of one’s own culture. In asserting individuality, you may choose to inform the audience of your culture or a culture or co-culture you identify yourself with. For some of you this may seem difficult, for many Americans know little of their own culture or of other's. Furthermore, many people living in the United States are a mix of different cultures and ethnic backgrounds. A speech about an individual’s culture is important for these very reasons. Beyond this, is the more important objective of nurturing respect for the contribution of each cultural group to U.S. America's richness.

Once you have a topic selected, see me for approval. Examples of previous thesis statements for this speech follow:

Example Thesis Statements

* I am a unique blend of Puerto Rican values and Euro-American behaviors.
* Yurok basketry has influenced my perspective on the earth and my meaning of community.
* The determination, discipline, and strength needed to be a successful gymnast have shaped the way I live my life and my goals for the future.

**Requirements:**

1. The topic should be informative and interesting to this audience.

2. The speech should be **four minutes** in length.

3. The three functional steps of the introduction (attention getter, psychological orientation, logical orientation) and the three functional steps of the conclusion (logical, psychological, clincher)should be clearly identifiable orally and in your outline (label them).

4. Each main point should be clearly developed and stated.

5. Delivery is to be in extemporaneous mode (natural and conversational). Use only three note cards.

6. You must include information from at least one published source. Therefore, library research is necessary. Include a reference list in APA format on your topic outline. (see APA Guide in your Moodle course)

1. A typed **topic** outline, submitted on the day of the speech, should

--Provide your name and title of speech.

--State your thesis.

--Follow the correct outline format.

--State your organizational pattern.

--State your specific purpose.

--Include the three functions of introduction and conclusion (written out in full sentences as you plan to deliver it)**.**

**Criteria for evaluation**

First, you must meet all of the above requirements to receive a passing grade for the assignment. Then, points will be assigned based on how well you carried out each aspect of the assignment. In other words, if each requirement is present, expect to receive about 70% of the possible points in that category (C range). If you fail to meet one of the basic requirements, the grade will be lower on that component. If you not only meet the minimal requirements, but carry them out very will, expect to receive 80-89% (B range) or 90-100% (A range) of the possible points.

Total points for the assignment will be weighted as follows:

Outline 10 points

Organization 10 points

Content 15 points

Delivery 15 points

Total 50 points

**Suggestions for preparation**

Keep in mind the importance of clarity. This is largely achieved through effective organization. Confine your speech to two or three main ideas and group the other points under these. Clarify the relationship between your points. Keep your speech moving ahead according to a well-developed plan; do not jump back and forth from one idea to another.

Prepare your note cards and practice with them. Write only KEY words on the note cards so that you will not rely on them too heavily. Practice the speech several times but **do not** memorize it word for word. Time your speech when practicing. Be sure to stay within time limit for there is a grade penalty if you do not. If your speech is over or under by more than 30 seconds there will be a deduction (3 points for every 30 seconds). This assures everyone in the class an equal amount of time to speak. If you are still not finished well after the time limit passes (after 5 min.), I will ask you to stop.