

# Introducing the Topic, Thesis, and Main Points

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## WHAT'S COVERED

Public speakers should introduce a topic and state a thesis (or purpose) as soon as possible. After the attention-grabbing opening, there is only a small window of time in which to convince the audience that you have something useful to say. This lesson will cover:

1. Introducing the Topic
2. Introducing the Thesis
3. Introducing the Main Points
4. Example: Topic, Thesis, and Main Points
  - a. Analysis

## 1. Introducing the Topic

When introducing your **topic** to your audience, you should:

- Name your topic
- Explain the topic at a level that is appropriate for your audience
- Define key concepts,
- Explain how the topic relates to your listeners and remind them of their stake in the matter



### TERM TO KNOW

#### Topic

Subject; theme; a category or general area of interest.

## 2. Introducing the Thesis

Make your initial thesis statement (or the statement of purpose in an informative speech) short and sweet.

Remember: The thesis statement should summarize your argument in one to three sentences.



## Thesis

A concise summary of the argument or main points, usually one to three sentences long.

# 3. Introducing the Main Points

Before your introduction is finished, give the audience an overview of your main points.

It may help to refer to your outline, which should provide a concise list of your main points, in order.

Translate that list into complete sentences, and voila! You will have a good overview.

# 4. Example: Topic, Thesis, and Main Points

*Vitamin D deficiency may be the hottest topic in nutrition today. Scientists are flooding academic journals, fashion magazines, and talk shows with arguments about all things D, ranging from sunscreen to supplements.*

*No one is disputing its importance: vitamin D helps with calcium absorption, promotes bone health, boosts immunity, and reduces inflammation. That is why recent studies estimating that 10 to 75 percent of Americans are deficient in vitamin D are so scary.*

*Hold on—10 to 75? That range is huge!*

*In order to discover the extent of the problem, we need to take a closer look at those numbers— and that is exactly what we will do in this presentation. I have prepared a chronological overview and analysis of methodologies for measuring vitamin D levels in the U.S. population, beginning with a study conducted at this university.*

## 4a. Analysis

The opening of this speech names a topic (vitamin D deficiency), explains its importance, explains its relevance to the audience, and then states the purpose of the presentation - to investigate the improbably wide range of deficiency-rate estimates from different studies - and outlines the main points.



## SUMMARY

In this lesson, you learned that you should describe the scope of your speech when you **introduce your topic**. State your **thesis** or purpose clearly and with emphasis in one to three sentences. Provide an overview of your **main points** before you launch into the body of the speech. You also looked at an **example of a topic, thesis, and main points** in action. An **analysis** of this example demonstrated how the introduction made the topic relevant to the audience.

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Source: Boundless. "Introducing the Topic, Thesis, and Main Points." Boundless Communications Boundless, 3 Mar. 2017. Retrieved 21 May. 2017 from <https://www.boundless.com/communications/textbooks/boundless-communications-textbook/organizing-and-outlining-the-speech-10/introduction-53/introducing-the-topic-thesis-and-main-points-213-4164/>



#### TERMS TO KNOW

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