

Other Speeches: Farewells, Toasts, and After-Dinner Remarks

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WHAT'S COVERED

In this lesson, you will learn about the purpose of several other particular speech types. Specifically, this lesson will cover:

1. Farewells, Toasts, and After-Dinner Remarks

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Special occasion speeches are, to put it lightly, the "life of the party" when it comes to public speaking.

Farewells, toasts, and after-dinner remarks are often the lightest of public speaking fare, requiring little in preparation or execution. Humor, anecdote, and brevity are notable qualities of these types of speeches. Still, like any public speaking experience, it helps to be familiar with your subject and able to prepare, even if briefly beforehand.

Many times, these speeches are not written extensively prior to the speaking engagement. You may jot down a few key talking points or maybe a specific joke or anecdote that you wish to include.

Like preparing for any speech, regardless of formality, consider the audience, venue, and occasion for which you're speaking. It's also particularly helpful, especially for wedding toasts, to consider the span of ages in the room. If there is a particularly older or younger crowd, you may need to tailor your material accordingly so that all audience members can relate.

Many times, farewells, toasts, and after dinner speeches are made in honor or in celebration of someone else: a guest or guests of honor, or perhaps the event host or hostess themselves. While it's acceptable to poke fun, make sure you do so in a way that's kind and not cruel. Unless you're specifically giving remarks for a full on **roast**, you shouldn't overly embarrass your guest of honor. You're there to entertain, not humiliate.

It's important to remember that brevity is your friend in all of these situations: no one likes a toast that goes on forever while the champagne bubbles go flat. To quote Esenwein and Carnagey, authors of *The Art of Public Speaking*:

Blessed is the man that maketh short speeches, for he shall be invited to speak again.



TERMS TO KNOW

Farewell

A wish of happiness or welfare at parting, especially a permanent departure; the parting compliment; a goodbye; adieu.

Toast

To engage in a salutation and/or accompanying raising of glasses while drinking alcohol (or other appropriate beverage) in honor of someone or something.

Roast

A comical event where a person is subjected to verbal attack, yet may be praised by sarcasm and jokes.



SUMMARY

In this lesson, you learned that **farewells, toasts, and after-dinner remarks** typically require much less preparation than formal speeches. Farewells, toasts, and after-dinner remarks often use humor and anecdote to entertain a crowd and/or celebrate a guest or guests of honor. It's okay to poke fun at the guest of honor, but the goal is to entertain, not humiliate. Brevity is an art form and a gift when it comes to informal speeches like these.

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