

# Book Report Oral Presentation

Everyone—even the President of the United States—gets nervous when they have to speak in front of a crowd. But it doesn't have to be a miserable experience. The more carefully you prepare, the better you'll feel when it's time to make your presentation.

## Task 1: Requirements

Make sure you understand the task at hand and know exactly what your teacher expects of you. Review all of the information you have and make sure you can answer the following questions. If you don't know, ask your teacher.

- When are you scheduled to give your presentation?
- How much time will you be allowed?
- Did your teacher provide any other guidelines for your presentation?

## Task 2: Topic

You've been assigned to give an oral presentation of your book report. This means you already have a general topic—your book.

1. Read through your book report and make a list of the information you feel must be included in your presentation. Most book reports cover information about the book's author, publisher, and a summary of the important elements and themes.
2. Narrow your point of focus. No one in your audience wants to hear every word of your written book report. Your goal is to limit your discussion to the most important information in your report and the key elements of the story.

## Task 3: Audience profile

You discuss a movie differently with those who have seen it than with those who haven't. This same principle applies to public speaking.

Take a few minutes to think about your audience:

- Who is your audience?
- Is everyone in the audience as familiar your book as you are?
- How can you make your report interesting to everyone?

## Task 4: Outline

A speech consists of three parts: an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. Plan what you're going to cover in each section of your presentation.

List the things you want to cover in each section. You may choose to translate your outline to note cards or slides later, or you may want to work directly from your outline. Be sure to write legibly—you don't want to get up in front of the class and find out you can't read your own writing.

- **Introduction.** Use the introduction to tell your audience the general information about your book, such as its title, author, publisher, and year of publication. You may choose to start with an attention-grabber, like a joke or an anecdote about your experiment. Telling it will help you relax and warm your audience to the presentation.
- **Body.** Use the body of your presentation to describe key elements of the story, such as its setting and time period, an overview of the main characters, and a *very brief* summary of the plot.
- **Conclusion.** Use your conclusion to describe any recurring themes or symbolism in the book and how the author uses them to reinforce important messages. At the end of your presentation, tell your audience what you thought of the book. Would you recommend it? Are you planning to read additional work by this author?

## Task 5: Visual Aids

Remember the old saying "a picture is worth a thousand words?" It's true.

1. Go over your outline looking for opportunities to illustrate your presentation visually. Collect pictures, such as a photocopy of the book jacket, a photograph of the author, or pictures of the setting. Consider examples of things used in the book, or even music characters listened to if it played an important role, to reinforce your main points.
2. Sort through the collection and select the very best candidates. Limit yourself to one visual aid for the introduction, one or two for each main point, and one for the conclusion. Make sure each visual aid is clear and easy to read and that it reinforces an important aspect of your presentation. Plan to briefly discuss each visual aid that you display. You want your audience to understand what they're looking at and why you're showing it to them.

3. Note in the outline where you will show each visual aid to the audience. List the key things about the visual aid that you intend to call out. This will help you remember to display the right visual aid at the right time, even if you're nervous.

4. Make arrangements with your teacher for any special equipment you require, such as a laptop computer, overhead projector, or slide projector.

### **Task 6: Rehearse**

Practice, practice, practice. Repeat your presentation speech over and over again. Give it to your family. Give it to your friends. Give it to your pets. Practice in front of a mirror. Practice in front of a camcorder. Practice in your imagination.

1. Time yourself to make sure your presentation fits in the allotted time.

2. Practice with your visual aids. Make sure they're easy to see and understand, and that they illustrate your points without detracting from them.

3. Speak slowly, clearly, and not too softly. Be careful not to say "um" or fidget.

4. Ask your friends and family if your presentation is interesting. Do they get the main point?

### **Task 7: Live presentation**

Relax! You know your material well and you've practiced it relentlessly. Have faith in yourself because YOU CAN DO IT!

- Keep your thoughts on what you are saying rather than on how you are feeling.
- Speak informally and conversationally. Be friendly. Smile!
- Make eye contact with a friend you trust, or focus on a spot at the back of the room and imagine someone you love is sitting there, cheering you on.

Have fun!

## Coat of Arms

Student Directions: For this assignment, you will use the main character questionnaire to help you design a coat of arms or a shield that represents the main character. Then you will organize an oral report to discuss the novel and explain the coat of arms. Last, you will give your oral report in class.

### Preparation for Main Character Shield for Oral Book Report

1. Choose one of the main characters from a story to feature on a coat of arms.
2. Complete the following questionnaire for generating the symbols or pictures for your coat of arms. You can also research symbols, colors and designs for a coat of arms to create the shield.
3. Construct the shield out of poster board or other suitable materials. The title of the book and character's name must be on the front of the shield. There should be a minimum of six items on the shield. The shield should be colorful, creative and neat.

**Main Character Questionnaire** This questionnaire will help you to brainstorm ideas for the shield. Remember, only six items need to be placed on the shield.

1. What is the main character passionate about in the story? Is it a sport, friend, hobby, car, etc.? (Example: silver dollar -- His father gave him the coin before he died.)
2. What item is important to the main character? Or, what item represents the character the best? (Example: basketball -- Dan spends most afternoons playing basketball.)
3. What is one word that describes the main character? (Example: butterfly -- Dan goes through a huge change for the better in the story.)
4. What is one emotion that the character feels intensely or feels throughout the story? (Example: Nervousness -- Dan waits to find out if he makes the school basketball team.)
5. What is the main character's favorite color? Or, what color represents the character best? (Example: blue -- Dan loves the sky and ocean water.)
6. What is the main character's favorite song? If one song could represent the main character, what would it be? (Example: You Are My Sunshine -- Dan finally finds a friend who can help him with his problems.)
7. What type of pet does the main character have? Or, what animal is most like the main character? (Example: Panther -- Dan is a very fast runner.)
8. What plant is most like the main character? (Example: cactus -- Dan is prickly like a cactus because he enjoys arguing.)

9. What season does the main character like best? Or, what season best represents the main character? (Example: Summer – Dan loves to run on the beach and play basketball in the sun.)

### **Canned Book Report**

- For this project you will decorate an empty coffee can with the title of your book, author,
- and pictures that relate to your book. You may draw your pictures, make a collage,
- photocopy, or use pictures from the Internet. On the inside of your can you will have five
- index cards and 5 items. Your index cards will describe the items you choose to put in the
- can. As you select your five items, you should keep the following questions in mind. Who?
- What? When? Why? How? The five items should relate to the book in some way. For
- example, you may put clues that you read about in the story such as a shoe or a tablecloth.
- Or you may put replicas of the characters you read about in the story, etc. Be creative
- and have fun.

### **Character Card Posters**

- Use large sheets of construction paper to create “collector cards” (like baseball cards) about the main characters in your story. On the back (the side with lines), write all of the interesting and important statistics about each character. On the front, draw or paste a picture of the character. Make sure the character is in color, so that your audience will be interested in learning more about each character.
- Here are some statistics you may want to use on the back of your character cards.
  - What book is the character in?
  - Who wrote the book?
  - Where does the character live?
  - How old is the character?
  - What kind of person is the character?
  - Why is this character important in the story?

## MOBILE BOOK REPORT

Show your understanding of important people, events, and objects in your book by making a mobile. You will demonstrate your knowledge of the book by identifying the importance of the **objects** on your mobile and relating them to your book.

### Contents:

- Mobile structure on which objects can be hung. Title and Author of book must be displayed clearly.
- At least **8 objects** that represent important people, events, or objects in the book.
- On a card attached above or below each object, tell the importance of the object as it relates to the book.
- Write a plot summary and your opinion of the book – no less than 1 page to be handed in as well. This should be typed double-spaced.

## CREATE A MOVIE

Pretend that your book is going to be made into a movie. Don't use an actual movie that has been done to do this report. If your book has already been made into a movie, be sure you choose different actor/actresses/songs, etc. You need to complete the following:

- **Design a movie poster.** Use it as your book report cover. Be sure to include the name of the book and author as well as who will be starring in your movie on your poster. You may choose to do this poster size if you want.
- **Describe the main characters.** Then choose an actor/actress (living or dead, it doesn't matter) that you think would be a good choice to play each of those characters. Tell me why you chose these persons. Remember these people should be listed on your movie poster.
- **Choose a song** that would make a good theme song for the movie. Why did you choose it? How and why does it fit in? (**Please include the lyrics of the song.**)
- **Plot outline.** Briefly, no less than 1/2 page, tell me what happens in your book.
- Numbers 2-4 should be written in **paragraph form**. Spelling and grammar will count. Be creative.

## BOOK REPORT CUBE

This is an oral book report option. (You need to let me know at **least a week in advance** of when you wish to present this report so I can be sure to allot you class time.) You write specific information on each side of the box, as described below. Then, you present your book to the class using your box to help you discuss it. Hand in your box after your oral presentation; both your box and your presentation are then evaluated.

- Side one -- Title of book and author's name List other works by this author (Don't forget punctuation.)
- Side two -- Who are the main characters in the book? Who is your favorite character and why? Who is your least favorite character and why?
- Side three -- Plot – Summarize what happens in the book
- Side four -- Describe the setting. Was it a good setting choice? Did it help set the mood and theme of the story? Why or why not?
- Side five -- What was the author's message? Was there a moral to the story? (Why did he/she write this book?)
- Side six -- What did you like most about the story? What could be done to make it an even better story?

## **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

Create a PowerPoint presentation over your book and present it to the class. (You must **sign up with me a week** before you wish to give your presentation so that I am sure to allot you class time!) Presentation must include at least **7** slides covering the following aspects of the book: (These do not necessarily need to be presented in this order. You are not limited only to these aspects either.)

- Title Basic Plot Setting
- Author's Name Characters Author's message
- Other works by author Favorite character/why Favorite part/why
- Least favorite character/why
- Slides should include **key words only**, not complete sentences. Your presentation should incorporate different slide layouts, transitions, pictures, and maybe even moving text. In addition to signing up a week in advance, you will need to **email, put on zweb in the correct folder** or get a **copy of your presentation** to Mrs. Wilson at least **one day prior** to the presentation. Be sure to check the spelling and any punctuation necessary on your slides, as they will count.