TopicFinder

to accompany

THE ART OF PUBLIC SPEAKING
Ninth Edition

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Choosing a topic is the first step in preparing a successful speech. In Chapter 4 of *The Art of Public Speaking*, you will read about several methods you can use to select an interesting and appropriate topic. The purpose of this booklet is to provide additional help by identifying more than 1,200 topics from A to Z.

As you read this booklet, keep in mind that there is no limit to the number of potential speech topics. Those listed here are meant to stimulate your creativity, not to limit it. Some of the topics are very broad (economics, South America, mass transportation). Others are more specific (value-added tax, Amazon River, airplane safety). Some are suitable for informative speeches; others for persuasive speeches. Many will work for either kind of speech, depending on how you approach the topic and develop your ideas.

Whatever topic you choose, remember it is only the first step in preparing your speech. As explained in Chapter 4 of the textbook, once you have a topic, you will then need to narrow it and come up with a sharp, clear specific purpose that you can achieve in the time allotted for your speech. You also will need to research the speech, prepare a detailed outline of it, and practice your delivery. The sooner you choose a topic, the more time you will have for the rest of your speech preparation. I hope you will find this booklet a valuable resource that will help you get started on the right foot.

Stephen E. Lucas
Angelou, Maya
anger management
animal rights
Anthony, Susan B.
antibacterial products
antiques
anxiety
Appalachian Trail
Apple Computer
aquariums
Aquinas, St. Thomas
archaeology
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Armstrong, Lance
aromatherapy
arson
art
arthroscopic surgery
artificial intelligence
aspirin
asteroids
asthma
astronomy
atomic fusion
attention deficit disorder
aurora borealis
Austen, Jane
Australia
auto racing
avian flu
Aztecs

Babylon
back pain
badlands
bagpipes
Balkans
ballet
ballroom dancing
bankruptcy
Barton, Clara
baseball
Bastille Day
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Bay of Pigs
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Beatles
beavers
bees
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Graham
Beowulf
Berlin Wall
Bethune, Mary
McLeod
Better Business Bureau
bicycles
bigfoot
bilingual education
Bill of Rights
billiards
Bin Laden, Osama
biodiversity
D-Day
dairy farming
Dalai Lama
dams
darts
date rape
daydreams
daylight-saving time
Dead Sea scrolls
defarness
deadly penalty
Death Valley
decaying bridges
deer
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dementia
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demography
Denmark
dentistry
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detectives
Día de los muertos
diabetes
diamonds
Dickens, Charles
Dickinson, Emily
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diplomacy
disability laws
Disneyland
distributed computing
diversity
diving
divorce
Dix, Dorothea
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documentaries
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Dominican Republic
Douglass, Frederick
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Dr. Seuss
Dracula
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DuBois, W.E.B.
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Dylan, Bob
dynamite
dyslexia

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Einstein, Albert
El Salvador
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Electoral College
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Emancipation Proclamation
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energy shortages
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Epicureans
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epilepsy
Epstein-Barr virus
equestrian contests
ergonomics
Erie Canal
Eskimos
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ethics
Ethiopia
etiquette
eugenics
euthanasia
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Everglades
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existentialism
extrasensory perception
extraterrestrial intelligence
eyewitness testimony

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fascism
fast food
fatherhood
feminism
fencing
Feng Shui
ferrets
fertility drugs
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First Amendment
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Garden of Eden
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International Bank
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Muhammad
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Napoleon
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national health care
national debt
national parks
National Football League
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Naval Academy
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nonfat foods
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Nostradamus
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Sikhism
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Sistine Chapel
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Smithsonian Institute
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Special Olympics
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St. John's Wort
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Taj Mahal
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Talmud
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Tecumseh
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telekinesis
telemarketing
telemarketing
television news

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terrorism
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Thanksgiving
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Thucydides
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Tiffany glass
tires
Titanic
Title IX
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Tower of London
Trail of Tears
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wind surfing
wine
winter
wisdom teeth
wit
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Wollstonecraft, Mary
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women’s rights
woodworking
wool
word games
workers’ rights
World Trade
Organization
World War II
worms
Wounded Knee
wrestling
Wright, Frank Lloyd

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Xenophon
xerography
xylography
xylophones
XYZ affair

Y
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yachts
Yahtzee
Yalta Conference
yams
Yangtze River
Yankee Doodle
yard sales
yellow fever
yellow journalism
Yellowstone
Yemen
yeti
yin and yang
YMCA
yodeling
yoga
yogurt
Yom Kippur
Yosemite
Young, Brigham
youth sports
Yucatán peninsula
yucca

Yugoslavia
Yukon Territory

Z
Zaire
Zapata, Emiliano
zebra mussels
Zen
zeppelins
Zeus
Ziegfeld Follies
Zimbabwe
zinc
Zionism
zip codes
zippers
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zombies
zoning laws
zoology
zoos
Zoroastrianism
Zorro
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