Narrative Speech Assignment

Overview:
Storytelling has long been an important means of sharing information and history within cultures. Before the development of the printing press, history was passed from generation to generation through storytelling, and even today, most cultures have stories that are told over and over to entertain and to share values with the next generation (e.g., the Brer Rabbit tales, Anansi stories, and religious stories). For this assignment, you will give a narrative speech in which you will tell your audience a story and help your audience derive meaning from your story. The purpose of this assignment is to learn more about each other as well as to gain practice developing and delivering a speech.

Narrative Speech:
A narrative speech is a speech in which you use a case study, history, or story to illustrate a point for your audience. A case study uses a specific event, organization, group, or phenomenon to represent a larger set of similar situations. For examples, a speaker could use a case study of FEMA’s response during Hurricane Katrina to illustrate how FEMA responds to natural disasters and to learn about the importance of emergency preparedness. A history uses the real experiences of individual people, organizations, or phenomena to tell the complete narrative of the subject. For example, a speaker could tell the history of how Iran became a theocracy to help explain the significance of the recent election. A story uses an anecdote to illustrate an abstract idea or concept. For example, a speaker could use a story about a time that he or she fell off of a bike to illustrate the importance of trying again after failing at something.

If you choose to do a narrative speech, be sure to include adequate detail about the characters (who) and setting (when and where the story takes place). You should also make sure that your story is not just a cataloguing of events, but also has a clear plot that involves some kind of change over time through the complication and resolution of events. You will need to share a narrative and tell us what we learn from it.

Research:
For this speech, most of the knowledge will come from things that you already know. For example, if the speech is a narrative of something that happened to you, only you (and perhaps others who were there) know the complete details of the event. Thus, you are not required to use other sources for this speech.

However, you might find it helpful to do additional research to better understand the events or artifact about which you are speaking. You might choose to interview family members or others with knowledge of and experience with your topic. You might also choose to do research at the library and find reliable webpages with information about your topic. If you choose to do additional research, you should be careful to cite your sources in your final presentation outline and in your speech presentation.

Notes: While planning your speech, you will develop a full sentence preparation outline. When you give your speech in class, you should use only one notecard with a keyword outline.

Length: 4–6 minutes
What you need to bring to class:

Day outline is due: typed draft outline of your speech

Day you give your speech:
- Final draft of your speech outline. If you use outside resources, you should include a list of references at the end of your outline
- All previous drafts of your speech
- Notecard with your speaking notes (if you want to use notes while speaking)
- Copy of instructor evaluation
- Copy of peer evaluation