

## Acting Out the Context and Situation

Chapter 8 addresses the differences between speaking environments, the influences of different media use in those environments, and how to adapt to the various elements when delivering a speech.

Keeping all of these elements in mind, find a partner and improvise your own speaking situation. It is up to you as the speaker to decide whether you are giving an indoor, outdoor, or videoconference speech; what speaking tools are available or not available to you; and how you will look, sound, and feel for this practice presentation.

Make sure to consider all of the different possibilities for each of these elements. As an example, you may pretend that you are primed and polished, wearing a great business suit and feeling confident about your presentation. Your make-believe presentation is indoors to a large audience, and you have a podium, microphone, lighting, and a big screen on which to display your presentation notes to your audience. Now it is up to you to embody the person in your imagination, hold the invisible microphone, use the invisible podium, and tailor your speech according to what you have and do not have available to you. **When developing your context and situation, make sure to take into account the tan-colored boxes throughout the chapter**—these boxes give you tips as far as what to think about when developing your exercise.

Your speech can be highly structured or conversational. The topic is up to you—there is no pressure to deliver a great speech, since the point of this exercise is to get you thinking about the essential elements in the speech and how to work with or without them.