

2-Minute Speech Training in 3 Steps

OneVirginia2021 volunteers need to be able to communicate essential information and speak with passion. In this exercise participants will



- Identify what about redistricting reform is important to them
- Organize and prioritize their thoughts
- Begin to develop their own voice

Step 1. Select a buddy and discuss: (10 minutes)

- A. The **goal** of your speech and ideas that are essential to communicate in a short speech at fair/festival, with friends/family, or at Presence At The Polls
- B. The top three ideas ***absolutely necessary*** to communicate in a 2-minute speech (it is okay for you and your buddy to have different ideas prioritized)

Key Ideas: _____

Prioritized ideas:

Step 2. Review the “Take-Home Pointers” on the next page and then work independently to:

Write your speech (10 minutes)

Step 3. Reconvene with your buddy to: Practice your speech (5 minutes)

Take-Home Pointers

Considerations for your speech:

What is the goal of your speech (for the listener to take action [e.g., sign a petition, visit the website, take a postcard, other])? **Remember to insert your goal at the end of your speech!**



Introduce yourself by answering these questions:

- Who do you represent?
- What exactly is OneVA2021? (*A bunch of people from all across the political spectrum who believe these districts belong to Virginians, not to politicians.*)

When personalizing your speech, consider:

- What about gerrymandering is most important to you? (Ask yourself “why is that important?” Ask again, “Why is that important?” to arrive at the core of what is important to you); use that passion in your speech.
- What you might need to say to get someone’s undivided attention.
- Sharing one small personal thing associated with gerrymandering or why you became interested in the cause.

When giving your speech:

- Recognize the context in which you are working.
- Recognize audience demographics so you can prepare yourself.
- Gain comfort in saying “I don’t know” if someone asks you a tough question. Offer to find out and communicate directly with the asker. Bonus points for getting their email!
- Maintain eye contact throughout the conversation.
- No matter what anyone says to you, smile and say “thank you for your time today.”
- Set the conversational pace by taking your time; do not rush, ramble, or mumble, and listeners will follow your lead.
- Demonstrate that you are listening by nodding your head affirmatively.
- If you do not understand what someone is asking, say, “Can you talk about that a little bit more” to seek clarity.
- Use wait time as a strategy to gather your thoughts when responding to a question.

Miscellaneous speech preparations:

- Bring OneVirginia2021 postcards
- Bring plenty of blank petition pages and pens
- Have the URL on the tip of your tongue: onevirginia2021.org or marchforthva.org
- Keep “the ask” top-of-mind