

Giving a speech can be a scary experience, but in an election it is a good way of sharing your ideas with voters. Because these are the people you will be representing if you win, it's important to give a good impression and present ideas they will like.

To start a speech you want to make sure you introduce yourself and let the voters know a little bit about you and why you're running in the election.

E.g. Hello everyone, I'm *(put your name here)*. I am a year *(?)* student here at *(your schools name)*. I want to be your school councillor because I know you all have great ideas for how to make this school a better place for students to learn. I'll work hard to make sure that our teachers hear these ideas and push them to put them into action.

Once you have made your introduction you should go into more detail about what you would do if you were elected. Use your manifesto as a guide, and try to think about what issues are really important to the students at your school.

E.g. If you elect me I'll argue for more time and resources to be given to our extracurricular groups so students can share the positive experience without having to rush or spend their own money on the equipment they need.

The limited menu for our school dinners is also something I will address if elected. I promise to try and get healthier and vegetarian options on the menu everyday to reflect the tastes of students at this school.

To end a speech it can be effective to clearly repeat your policies in a way that sounds appealing and is memorable for your audience, like a slogan. You could also emphasise why you would be the right person for the job based on your skills and experience.

Finally you will want to encourage people to vote in the election and to thank your audience for listening.

If you vote for me you'll get more opportunity to enjoy the schools groups and better school dinners for everyone. Having previously *(what experience do you have?)* I have developed skills in *(list skills you gained)*, making me an ideal candidate for this position.

Please vote in this election and make your voice heard.

Thank you.

It's a good idea to ask if anyone has questions at the end of your speech. If you are going to do this, make sure that you are familiar with your manifesto and prepare for unexpected questions.

Some useful tips for your **School Council Speech**

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These tips will help you to write and present a great speech for your school council elections or any other occasion when you need to speak in public.

- Give yourself plenty of time to write your speech. You'll want to be prepared before you have to stand up and speak to your audience.
- Try to learn your speech as best as you can so you're not reading it like a script. You can use notes to remind you what you want to talk about, but it sounds more confident if you look at the crowd while you're talking.
- Rehearse your speech **lots** of times before the real thing so you're comfortable with what you're going to say.
- Practice with a parent, friend or teacher, they can give you advice that you might not think of yourself.
- When you are reading your speech, try and stay relaxed. Don't talk too quickly, and remember to breathe!
- Sometimes putting a joke in your speech will help the crowd to relax and keep them interested, but make sure it's relevant to what you're saying.

Good luck with your speech and with your school council election!