

Carolina Kickoff Novice Tournament Riverside HS

2025 — Greer, SC/US

Impromptu Topic Areas

Round 1: Quotes from Entrepreneurs

Round 2: Kitchen Appliances

Round 3: Native American Proverbs

Round 4: Opposites

The 3-Minute Speech Blueprint

Your goal is to build a simple, easy-to-remember structure. For a 3-minute speech, think of it like this:

- **Minute 1: The Hook.** Get to the point! Introduce your topic and your main idea. This is where you explain what you think the quote means, what the kitchen appliance represents, or what lesson the proverb teaches.
- **Minute 2: The Examples.** Give a few short stories or examples that prove your main idea. This is the heart of your speech, and it's easy to fill time here. You can use personal stories, things you've seen in movies, or even made-up examples.
- **Minute 3: The Wrap-up.** Conclude your speech by summarizing your main point. Leave the audience with one last thought to remember.

Round 1: Quotes from Entrepreneurs

Don't worry about who the entrepreneur is. Focus on the **meaning of the quote**.

- **Your Plan:**
 - **Intro:** Read the quote and explain what you think it means in your own words. Think of it as, "This quote is all about..."
 - **Examples:** Talk about a time you tried something new and it didn't work out at first. Maybe you had to try a lot of times to beat a difficult level in a video game, or you had to practice a lot to get good at something.
 - **Conclusion:** Repeat the quote and end by saying why it's a good lesson for everyone, not just entrepreneurs.
- **Example Topic: "I've failed over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."**
 - **Hook:** This quote means that making mistakes isn't a bad thing. It's how we learn and get better.
 - **Examples:** I'll tell you about a time I failed at a project in school, but the mistakes I made taught me how to do it right the next time. Then, I'll talk about my favorite athlete and how they probably failed many times before they became a champion.
 - **Wrap-up:** So, as the quote says, you have to fail to succeed.

Round 2: Kitchen Appliances

This category is fun because you can be creative! It's not about the object itself, but what the object **represents** or **reminds you of**.

- **Your Plan:**
 - **Intro:** State the appliance they gave you. Give it a big personality. Is the microwave a time-saver? Is the toaster a symbol of comfort?
 - **Examples:** Tell a story about a memory you have with that appliance. It can be a funny one, a sweet one, or a silly one. Talk about how your family uses it or how it makes your life easier.
 - **Conclusion:** Finish by saying how that simple appliance is more important than we think.
- **Example Topic: Toaster**
 - **Hook:** The humble toaster is a symbol of simple comfort. In just a few minutes, it can turn something plain into something delicious.
 - **Examples:** I'll talk about how I love making toast with jam on Saturday mornings. It's a small tradition in my family. I'll also compare it to

something else—like how a good friendship is like a toaster; it's reliable and always there when you need it.

- **Wrap-up:** So next time you see a toaster, remember the simple joy and comfort it brings.

Round 3: Native American Proverbs

Like the quotes, these are about **life lessons**. Think about how the proverb applies to your life and the world around you.

- **Your Plan:**

- **Intro:** Read the proverb and explain what it means to you.
- **Examples:** Tell a personal story that proves the proverb is true. You can also use an example from nature—like a tree, a river, or an animal.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize the wisdom of the proverb and say why it's an important lesson for today.

- **Example Topic: "Listen to the whispers of your heart. It will not lead you astray."**

- **Hook:** This proverb means you should trust your gut feelings and intuition.
- **Examples:** I'll tell a story about a time I had a gut feeling about a decision, and it ended up being the right choice. Then, I'll use an example of an animal that trusts its instincts to survive in the wild.
- **Wrap-up:** In a world with a lot of noise, it's important to remember to listen to your own heart.

Round 4: Opposites

This one is all about **balance**. You can talk about how both sides of an opposite pair are needed to make life interesting.

- **Your Plan:**

- **Intro:** State the two opposites you were given. Explain why they need each other.
- **Examples:** Tell a story about one of the opposites (e.g., a time of chaos) and how it led to a better outcome (e.g., a new solution). Give a second example about how you need both sides to be happy. For example, you need both work and rest to feel good.
- **Conclusion:** Reiterate how both sides of the opposite pair create a perfect balance.

- **Example Topic: Chaos and Order**

- **Hook:** A little chaos can be a good thing, because it pushes us to be more creative. But we need order to get things done.
- **Examples:** I'll talk about a time my desk was a mess (chaos), and I was able to find a creative way to solve a problem. Then, I'll talk about how a schedule (order) helps me stay focused on a big project.
- **Wrap-up:** Both chaos and order have a place in our lives, and we need both to be successful.

Good luck! Practice these frameworks at home, and you'll be ready for anything they throw at you.

