Personal Experience Speech

Time Requirement: **2-3 minutes**
Final Outline/Presentation Due Date: _____
(Final must be typed or neatly written using ink; see rubric on reverse for specific requirements.)

Your Purpose: **To entertain** or **to inform** us about an important experience in **your** life. Include **your feelings** about it, any **lessons learned**, **changes in attitude**, etc. Always consider and remember your **audience** in addition to making sure your presentation is **school-appropriate**.

Selecting a Topic: Choose an important experience that had a **great impact on your life**. After your speech, it should be clear **why** you chose that story to share with us. A funny story, life-lesson experience, or an experience which helps us get to know your character or personality all would be good choices. **AVOID topics that may be too emotional or those that make light of very serious issues or situations.**

Performance Criteria for Grading: Each student is evaluated on poise, approach, composure, stamping, stance, energy, volume, tone changes, rate, eye contact, facial expressions, exit, and meeting the time requirement. These criteria are used to determine the **technique grade worth 100 points**. Additionally, each student is evaluated on content. The **50 point content grade** is based on the following: including a strong introduction with an attention getter and thesis statement, strong development of each main idea using ample details in the body, and a conclusion that summarizes and restates ideas from the introduction and body.

Strategies/Tips:
- **Chronological order of events:** Tell your story in the order in which it happened, using three main points (three things it taught you).
- **Appeal to audience's senses:** Use details.
- **Take us there visually:** Make us see it.
- **Never List:** Don't just list items or places. Describe each main point using details (lots of adjectives).
- **Show us how this experience is special or unique; clarify in conclusion**

Outline Set up: See Outline Handout

PROPER PREPARATION PREVENTS POOR PERFORMANCE
REHEARSE!   REHEARSE!   REHEARSE!