

ANALYSIS

SPEECH



Because you have a limited time to come up with an introduction, you must search your memory for appropriate stories, examples, or illustrations. Your first thought should be to brainstorm everything you can think of that has some connection to elephants or whatever the topic happens to be. This brainstorming will not only generate an idea for an introduction but can also give you supporting material for the rest of the speech.

This transition connects the opening illustration with the thesis, or main idea of the speech.

This thesis statement is made more memorable because of the play on words using "mammoth."

Here the speaker explains what will be discussed in the rest of the speech. This is the "tell 'em what you're gonna tell 'em" step.

The first issue starts with a joke, but note that the speaker then turns her attention to more serious concerns. Raising the possibility of extinction gives importance to discussing this particular topic.

There is a story about six blind men touching an elephant. One man feels the tail and says, "Oh, it's a rope." One comes in contact with a leg and thinks it's a tree. Another man grasps the ear and speculates that it's a fan or a leaf. Still another man walks along the side of the elephant and concludes that it's a mountain. But none of these men realizes that it's an elephant.

Although this story illustrates how we must see the whole of anything in order to understand it, it is also true that most of us, in fact, do not recognize the whole importance of the elephant.

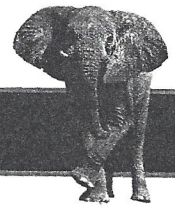
I believe that we should not overlook the "mammoth" accomplishment of these pachyderms.

Let us consider their contribution in two areas: the elephants, themselves, and what the elephants can teach us about ourselves.

Each elephant makes a significant sacrifice for our benefit. Did you know that every time you munch a peanut butter sandwich, you are grabbing goobers out of the mouths of baby elephants?

On a more serious note, in California many people are beginning to boycott the use of ivory in products. These people are concerned that elephants are hunted down and destroyed just for their tusks. Furthermore, they express the fear that elephants may become extinct some day as a result of man's greed.

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Here the speaker moves to the second issue. She begins the discussion of this issue by referring to a familiar children's story. If you can, you, too, should try to incorporate supporting material that has universal appeal.

The selfish slaughter is even more depressing when we consider what elephants can teach us about ourselves. In one of Dr. Seuss's best-loved stories, Horton the Elephant promises, "I meant what I said and I said what I meant, an elephant's faithful one-hundred percent." This faith, this commitment, is an important lesson for all of us.

This second lesson we can learn from elephants simply adds further proof to her argument. But it also reminds the audience that you can learn interesting things by listening in class.

But perhaps the elephant is most familiar to us as the symbol of the Republican Party. We learned in history class that the elephant as a symbol for Republicans came from the imagination of nineteenth-century cartoonist Thomas Nast. The teacher told us that the elephant was chosen because it is clever but not easily controlled.

This brief conclusion refers back to the thesis and then ends with a strong last thought. You want the audience to "never forget" you either.

So we should be clever enough to remember the accomplishments of these powerful pachyderms, for as we all know, the elephant never forgets.

Answer the questions below and submit to Schoology.

SECTION 2 REVIEW

Recalling the Facts ...

1. Name the three steps in a typical organization pattern for an impromptu speech.

Thinking Critically ...

1. In *Silent Messages*, Albert Mehrabian argues that facial and body language account for more than 50 percent of a listener's emotional response. Some 40 percent of the response is triggered by nonverbal vocal qualities. The words themselves only account for 10 percent or less of the response. Why do you think that words matter so little?