

# Leading Songs

(for those who can't sing but want to)

These are a few notes written by an amateur song leader for amateur song leaders. The suggestions may seem to be *too simple*, but for some reason, people trying to lead songs keep avoiding them.



I know that a person with a bad voice and a poor sense of rhythm can lead singing if necessary, because I am such a person. Often the sincere, but nontalented, can do a better job than a talented, but unenthusiastic person.

1.

**Enthusiasm!** Be enthusiastic! Enthusiasm is contagious and as the leader, it must start with you. Remember . . . *smile*.

2.

Lead *songs you know*, and then you will not need a book and this is important. It will give you *confidence*.

3.

First lead a *song* that you know *they know*. This gives success and nothing is more important to succeeding than *success!*

4.

To start the song, *get your hands up!* Often the people in the rear of the group cannot hear you or see your face. They need *to see* when *to start*. When you bring your hands down, start singing. *Keep the hands up and moving*. (You cannot read a songbook with both hands moving.)

5.

Use *action songs* such as *Rock of My Soul*, *Michael Row the Boat Ashore*, and *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* to give the group, and yourself, a sense of rhythm and enthusiasm. Use a *song at the end* to give a more *serious mood*. Suggestions: *Kum Bah Yah*, *500 Miles*, *Edelweiss*, *Jacob's Ladder*, and *Where Have All the Flowers Gone*.

6.

Sing *three types of songs*. Sing *starter* songs that the group knows. Sing *action* songs for rhythm and to "loosen" the group up. Sing a *quieting* song to soothe the group out of courtesy to the next person on the program.

7.

*Practice* ahead of time by singing and leading songs in front of a mirror. Do it at least once before facing a group. In spite of everything, *keep singing* whenever you want to sing and can!



# Tips for Writing Your Speech

Preparation is the key to a successful public talk. The effectiveness of your talk will be related to five essentials of preparation:

1. Select a central thought.
2. Develop an opening statement (attention getter).
3. Select supporting material which confirms the central thought.
4. Select "attention holders."
5. Develop a close ( summary).

## **1. Select a central thought—your goal, aim or objective.**

This is usually a thought which sums up in one sentence the basic idea that you wish to convey. You may wish to say that "4-H leadership provides valuable opportunities to help others," or that "I hope college will help me to become prepared for a career." Either is a suitable central thought for a short talk.

This first step is the most important of all. Think about what you want your audience to *know, feel, or do*. In other words, how do you want them to behave after hearing you.

## **2. Develop an opening statement.**

Try to grasp your listeners' attention within the first few seconds of your talk. You may do this with an unusual fact, an interesting idea, or a thought provoker. Maybe you could explain why your topic is important or timely.

## **3. Select supporting material which confirms your central thought.**

Facts, examples, and opinions all tend to establish a feeling in the listeners' minds that your position is correct. You may choose to use examples of teen leadership work to support the central thought on 4-H leadership. You might discuss aspects of the college curriculum that interests you most to show how it would prepare you for a certain career.

## **4. Select "attention holders."**

You must keep in mind that it is necessary to hold the attention of your listeners throughout your talk. You may use human interest stories, arousing expressions, or vivid examples to do this. Try a touch of humor, arouse curiosity, or pose a question. Usually it is wise to use a combination of interest materials, and it is wise to place them where interest may lag. This is usually in the middle and latter portions of your talk.

## **5. Develop your close.**

The closing is designed to give the listener a strong reminder of the importance of the central thought of your talk. The close may be in the form of a summary. Re-emphasize the key point of your talk. State specifically what you want the listener to know, feel, or do. This might be a "call for action."

# *My Working Outline*

1. Selection of central thought. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Opening statement (attention getters). \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Supporting material. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Attention holders. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Close ( summary). \_\_\_\_\_

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**S6006** R.6M4/01ps3821