**Checklist for Congressional Authorship Speech**

*The authorship speech is scripted and presented in a persuasive style. Speeches must be between 2 ½ to 3 minutes in length.*

**Content**

* Introduction with attention-getting hook (e.g., quotation, analogy, statistics) that goes beyond common, obvious ideas to something interesting
* Introduction explicitly states purpose/thesis
* Introduction is 15-30 seconds long
* Body is approximately 2 minutes long
* Body makes two to three meaningful arguments
* Body addresses stock issues for a policy claim: ill, blame, cure, costs
* Each point in the speech has a claim, proof, and impact
* Each **claim** is supported with analytical reasoning and/or evidence
* **Evidence** is good combination of quantitative statistics or facts, qualitative case studies, and quotations from experts
* The speech explains the **impact** (importance) that each claim has on the overall topic of debate
* The speech challenges the opposition to respond to an issue
* Conclusion states main points, summarizes the key arguments (about 30 seconds)
* Conclusion is about 30 seconds long
* Conclusion loops back to the hook
* Uses effective language
* Signposts and transitions are fluid and help the audience follow the argument
* Uses proper sentence structure and varies sentences
* The speaker has informed answers to questions posed by other congresspersons

**Delivery**

* Eye contact with the entire audience
* Authorship speech uses a manuscript, but eyes are not glued to the page
* Tone of voice is serious yet not dull; speech is given with emotion and engagement
* Speech is presented smoothly and fluidly, without verbal fillers; it has clearly been practiced

**Outline for Congressional Authorship Speech**

1. Introduction (about 20-40 secs)
   1. Hook—quotation, statistic, analogy, etc.
   2. Link
   3. Thesis/purpose
   4. Preview (very abbreviated, single words or phrases if possible)
2. Body—two (possibly three) points—about 2 mins total. For each point repeat this structure:
   1. Claim/tagline
   2. Grounds/proof for claim—support and sources—quantitative statistics—qualitative case studies—expert testimony—analysis—warrant
   3. Impact—state the importance that the claim has on the overall topic of debate—big picture
   4. Transition
3. Conclusion (about 30 sec)
   1. Loop to the hook
   2. Concluding sentence—try to get all arguments summarized into one sentence—say something inspiring
   3. Challenge the opposition to respond to an issue
   4. Request the vote