

Notes on the art of lecturing: Points made by Rudolf Steiner in Lecture V of Speakers Course in Stuttgart 2.14.21

Inner Attitude of Speaker: Every lecture a new experience: worst method is to memorize speech. Proper feeling: never to have enough of the subject. Always speak out of respect for theme. Actors get going after 50 repeats. Speak with same enthusiasm with which you eat, never bored, however often.

Practice Rhythmic Repetition of Subject Matter: intellect wants finished form, everything at once; the living and psychological require repetition. Religious practice takes note: same prayer every night and morning. Only after countless repetitions of the themes of your speech (if only in brief) are you ready.

Feeling of Responsibility For What You Say: speak out of the realization of its importance in world history. You stand at a decisive moment: either future downfall or ascent.

Weight Achieved By Interest In Events Of The Times: use examples. The opposition within our ranks, the phlegmatic members, too lazy to recognize this: tend to ignore connections with events.

Characterize The Opposition, Don't Emphasize Defense; describe their dishonesty in method and illogic in thinking. Go into detail about personalities involved; know your opponents, their biographies, and foibles. Characterize the human symptoms of the day humorously, especially the Verlogenheit, deceitfulness of the School-People. Find the right oratorical nuances for this story telling.

Live In the Material Of The Speech: no word perfect preparation. Struggle for the formulation of the wording while speaking. Preparation lies in the thoughts, the intentions of what is to be said. Prepare Lead-lines only (but not words or phrases or slogans). Make notes in complete sentences: each sentence a theme for a paragraph. Use as Themes, not staring points in talking. Speaker goes from theme to theme while speaking.

Prepare The Beginning And End Carefully: have the words in mind. First 5 or 6 lines and last 5 or 6 lines. Have the approximate words in mind, but not memorized. This counteracts stage-fright. Stage-fright is customary and also valuable for the speaker, gives the inner liveliness as long as we master it and fight through to the subject.

Advice From The Experienced: make your but burn them after every lecture. Make them 50 times but burn them 50 times. They are to contain: the beginning, the themes, the ending. Make them anew for each talk, never use cold-notes. This makes for life. Be through with this life of the lectures as you are through with what you at yesterday.

Always Speak From The Entire Man, Never from the intellect: Cold notes are intellectual; hot-notes still have the qualities of the creative about them. Intellect only interests the speaker, listeners want the whole man. Let the audience hear the speaker's pleasure, pain, joy, conquest of subject; these must all be there, giving a living inner relation to subject matter and audience.

Start The Talk With Reference To Symptomatic Events of The Day: thereby establishing common atmosphere with audience. Or: use paradox method: start with symptoms further a field, then surprise listeners by showing connection with topic.

Return At End to Opening Theme (in certain cases); start with question-like opening, finish with answer. Listener will retain what is said. Exercises very good influence on listeners.

Use Leitmotives In Body Of Speech for Emphasis: Stresses central idea. Always vary formulation, repeat in different words, otherwise this technique won't work.

Characterize, don't define: use clauses, descriptions, Nouns or substantives. Materialistic view wants nouns. The spirit of things works in verbs. Static vs. Dynamic. Style in treatment of subject matter is important; Appropriate one for every field.

Always Give Recognition To The Source: denial of the source of your ideas is UNFUG: scandalous. Spiritual Science source can be made known without mentioning Anthroposophy, etc. Steiner says he has done it again and again.

Be Objective: Speak out of the realities, not your subjective Opinion. Vigorous interest in the subject; moral responsibility to speak from the historical-time process about us.

These suggestions should bring you as the speaker into proper relation to your audience and proper relation to your subject matter.

George O'Neil 1955