

maidofhonorspeeches.us

How to Write A Killer Maid of Honor Speech In 1 Hour!

by: Sarah and Jeff

Legal Stuff

Disclaimer

This document contains strategies that I have personally taught over the years to many individuals that have difficulty writing speeches and presenting the,. Regardless of my own results and experience, you may not produce the same results (or any at all). I make absolutely no guarantee that your maid of honor speech will improve if you follow the advice given below, as each person is different.

Primarily, your results are dependent on the amount of work you put in to learning about speech writing, your drive to succeed, your motivation, and practice. If you do all that's advised below, you will easily have a great speech in an hour or less!

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With all of that legal stuff out of the way, let's get on to the meat!

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What This Report Can Do For You

Hey there everyone, it's Sarah and thanks for checking out this free report that I created for my website visitors.

So I created this simple guide to show you how I would go about writing a maid of honor speech if I had another wedding to attend. I already was the maid of honor earlier this year and I needed a LOT of help and read a ton of books.

I've learned that a lot of people need help with speech writing and speaking.

And that's how this guide was born.

I consulted with a great speech writing friend of mine and he has decided to take his knowledge to craft a maid of honor speech guide with me.

This guide is going to teach you exactly how to prepare and deliver your maid of honor speech. If you're looking for examples and templates, then I have a great resource for you to check out at the end of this guide.

This report is for those that have trouble writing speeches in general. If you have been sitting down for hours and are nervous as heck, I think you'll be happy with what you'll learn.

The only thing we ask of you is that you take what's written in here and put it to good use. If the wedding is around the corner, then you really have no other choice. The last thing you need is a long book to read.

I would recommend that you print this report out and highlight the important parts. Sit down for an hour or two and nail out your speech! Spend some time practicing it in front of the mirror and you'll be good to go.

Check out the examples and templates provided at the end and you'll have even more at your disposal.

Preparing the Speech

Hi there! You wanted a simple speech guide, so you're going to get one. I promise to deliver high quality information that I have been teaching to clients for several years now so that you can whip out a maid of honor speech in an hour or less.

The first important topic I want to cover is WHY you're giving the speech. Are you a part of the family? Are you a close dear friend of the bride? Are you old and wise and expected to give out advice to these newlyweds?

That answer to that question is a simple but important one. You have been chosen to be the maid of honor for a reason. You need to deliver on that promise and give them a heartfelt speech.

Ideally, the best possible speech is one that isn't on paper... It's the one that's spoken straight from the heart while you look the bride straight in the eyes and express your feelings towards her.

That's the ideal situation.

Not all of us are capable to do that. Whether it's nerves, fear, lack of self-confidence, whatever – it's just not something that everyone can do (but by all means, if you can then DO IT!)

I personally believe that when you get up there to give your speech, you're going to side track and give the bride one of those heartfelt speeches. I see it happen all the time. Being in the moment does something to people and there's truly nothing else like it.

So, with that out of the way, let's get into the meat...

Length of Speech

Ideally, you want a speech that isn't too short and isn't too long. Too short and people will think you're one rude lady.

Too long, and you'll put gramps to sleep...

For a wedding speech, I would recommend you stick around the 5 minute mark. While they may sound long right now, it won't be when you get up and start speaking. You're going to want to make sure you don't go too long because speeches ALWAYS run longer than you think.

There are also different occasions where the length rules can be bent...

As an example, most wedding speeches are given during the reception. And what happens during receptions?

People Drink!

(Well, most weddings have alcohol. I understand that some don't and I will get to that in a second...)

If you're at a reception having a great time and everybody is drinking, you'll want to keep your speech down to a few minutes. No one wants to listen to a long speech when they're in the middle of partying! Keep it short, get to the point, let the bride know how much you love her and pass the mic. Aim for around 3-4 minutes here. That's it!

Now, for a wedding that isn't a crazy party, you'll want to aim for at least 5 minutes. It's more formal and people are watching you and expecting you to give a heartfelt speech.

Unfortunately, these weddings are the harder ones for speech giving. That's just a fact. The room isn't an a crazy party where everyone is cheering and dancing and talking to everybody. So, you're going to have to work a bit harder on your speech.

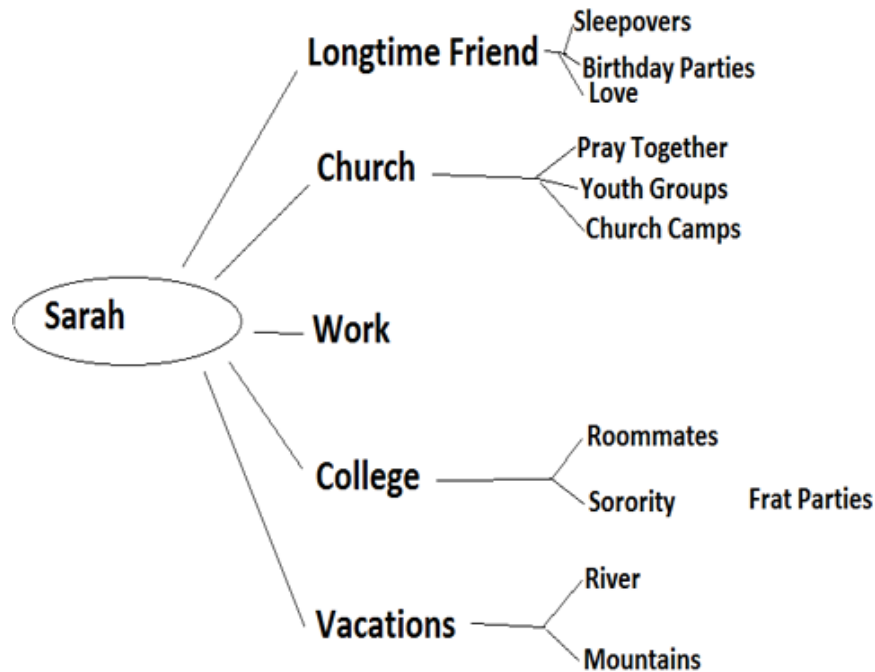
Information Gathering

Besides length of speech, this is where many women make their first mistakes. They spend their time writing down tons and tons of notes about the bride to be and the next thing they know, they have 4 pages of stuff that needs to be condensed into one!

Don't make this mistake... Please! You'll only create more stress for yourself which will further hinder your goal of getting the speech out in less than an hour.

My favorite way of teaching people how to prepare notes for a speech is with a Mind Map. This works for all types of speeches and will help you out a ton.

Don't know what a mind map is? I'll explain it below and include an image to show you exactly how I would prepare a maid of honor speech.



I put together this sample image in about 5 minutes of me pretending to be Sarah's maid of honor.

This type of diagram is what I teach all of my clients to use for speech writing. You start with the main subject – in your case, the bride.

You then branch out broad ideas of your friendship over the years.

Is she a long-time friend of yours? Even if she is your sister, consider her a long-term friend as well.

Did you two go to church together growing up? Or maybe in high school? What church camps did you guys attend together and which memories do you recall from those? Write down the simple memories next to church.

Did you two work together? Perhaps that is how you two met. You'll definitely want to include that in your speech.

Did you two meet in college? Perhaps you were roommates in the dorms or in a sorority. I've been to several weddings where the maid of honor met the bride in college. Be sure to talk about a couple of funny college stories and how you two met. Maybe throw in a few hilarious moments as well. And be sure to talk about the college boys!

Vacations are another great point to talk about. Many long-time friends and family members go on vacations with each other. These always have great moments that help to grow friendships and relationships.

Notice how I have 5 parts to who Sarah is:

-Long-time Friend

-Church

-Work

-College

-Vacations

If I spend 1 minute per part... that is a 5 minutes.

So, I want that to be your goal from here on out. You need to create a mind map that has 5 parts to it.

Make it your goal to talk about each part for 1 minute and 1 minute only.

Now, there are obviously exceptions to this. If college was a huge part of your friendship, you could easily talk about it for 2 or perhaps 3 minutes. So, you'll want to toss out work or church or something else for example.

Creating mind maps are great because you only need 1 sheet of paper, a pen or pencil, and your brain. With these tools, you can create anywhere from a 5 minute speech to an hour long speech (create 6 parts and spend 10 minutes on each).

Mind mapping alone is why my clients are so successful with their speeches.

Let's say you have to give a 30 minute power point presentation at your finance job. You would create a mind map first with 5 main points of the presentation. You would then create 6 different slides for each point and spend 1 minute talking about each slide.

I hope you're starting to see the power in this. Mind mapping can help you plan out so much in life that I guarantee you're going to start using it all the time.

So, that's it for the information gathering. There's not much to it. Spend about 5-10 minutes creating your mind map and you'll be ready to move on to the next section.

The last part of the speech should be about a 30 second to 1 minute conclusion about how much you support the marriage and how great of a couple they are. Remember that this day is about her. This is where you are speaking to her from your heart. If it goes over a minute, then so be it. You're no longer pleasing the crowd. You are showing your love to the bride and thanking her for all the years of friendship and trust.

Delivering the Speech

Ah, now we've moved on to actually presenting the speech. But before we get into actually speaking, we need to talk about notes.

Unless you want to hold your mind map sheet with you while talking, you're going to need to take that mind map and condense it into a small note card.

If you're at a table, you could possibly bring the entire sheet with you and glance down a few times 😊

After you have created your mind map, the next step is to figure out the order of the main points. This can take you another 5-10 minutes to figure out.

Ideally, you will want to talk about the beginning of the relationship first. If you met in college, then that will be the first point you write at the top of your note card. Write small and jot down the notes about college under it if you think you could forget to mention them.

Some notes won't even need to be written down on the note card. Just staring at the word 'college' on your note card will rush all of those old memories into your head.

Once you have done this for each point, you've essentially finished the note card. It can be a sticky note for all I care. If you want to memorize it, then you can as well. I usually don't recommend memorization especially for a small speech because it can create problems (like forgetting something!)

Reading Your Speech Aloud

You'll want to spend as much time as you need reading your speech aloud. So, if it only takes you 20 minutes to get it down, then you've created your speech in under an hour. But, take as much time as you need.

Some people say you should speak into a mirror. Let me tell you why I completely disagree with this teaching.

Answer this question: when you're going to be giving your speech, are you going to be staring at the exact same location? Of course not...

Yes, you'll be giving the bride looks into the eyes especially when you start giving her your love and other heartfelt words.

But when you're speaking to the audience, you're going to want to look around the room and project your voice.

I always recommend my clients to practice their speech in an open room, outside, in the garage, wherever. You want an open space that you can spin around in 360 degrees.

Practice giving your speech while addressing the different areas of the room. Imagine that there is a large crowd of 5,000 all around you and your goal is to look at each area at least once while giving the speech.

Spin all the way around if you need to. You never know if you're going to be given the mic in the middle of the dance floor that's in the center of all the guests 😊

Practice this as many times as you need to.

Project your voice. Tonality is important and you need to be sure that you're getting your words across. You never know when a mic will run out of batteries!

A little tip on microphones... try to keep them about 3 inches from your mouth. The closer it is, the louder you'll be. You can definitely go over the loudness factor and have everyone yelling "OMG THAT'S LOUD!" which is an easy way to mess up your flow.

The Day of the Speech

Here we are. It's the big day and your speech is less than an hour away! Here are some more notes that you'll want to keep in mind. Do not let these overwhelm you as they are not 100% necessary...

- Thank the guests for coming to the wedding. The guests drove many miles, flew on planes from across the country and world, and spent good money to make it there. It would be a good gesture to thank them for that.
- Keep your head up. Try not to glance down at your notes that often. I believe that you will memorize most, if not all of the key points of your speech during your practice sessions. Be sure to spend at least 20 minutes practicing. That means you have practiced your speech 4 times.
- Do not mumble. If this is a problem of yours, then spend the time during practice to correct this. The best way to fix this is to speak slowly, which is the next point...
- Speak slowly. The last thing you want to do is speak so fast that everyone in the audience starts yelling at you to repeat what you said. Plus, people that mumble tend to speak quickly. Simply slowing down the speed you say things will help considerably.
- Jokes? I'm sure you were expecting me to talk about them here. Well guess what? You don't need any premade jokes. Premade jokes simply aren't funny to be honest. The best jokes are the ones where you and the bride are laughing. And I guarantee she will when you start thinking about the funny things you two did in this relationship. Yes, I said you and the bride. If no one else laughs, who cares? This moment is about the bride – not the guests! Remember that...

- Microphones can be a bit tricky. When you're handed the microphone, the first thing you want to do is say "Can you all hear me ok??" And keep testing until you figure out where it needs to be. This is much better than jumping into the speech and having people interrupt you because they can't hear (or are too loud).

Nerves

Ahh, the dreaded speech killer 😊

Ok before I freak you out, I want you to know that everyone gets nervous before giving a speech. It's natural and we all find a way to get through it.

Guess what my favorite technique is to get rid of those nerves?

The microphone trick I gave you above. It really works great! The nerves tend to slip away once you start speaking. So, instead of starting with your speech, you start by asking the audience to help you out with the mic and if they can hear you ok. It's a great ice breaker and I recommend you do it even if the mic is fine.

Now, I could sit here and tell you to perform yoga, play some tennis, get a good night sleep, etc. to help you relax. But that's just ridiculous information written by cheesy 'professionals'.

We all know that when it comes to the big day, sleep just isn't going to happen (unless you overdose on Nyquil. Which I don't recommend...)

I also read a speech guide from another 'professional' the other day that recommended taking a speech class to conquer nerves.

WOW! What a freaken genius!

All jokes aside, I literally laughed at loud for about 5 minutes. What's the point of buying a public speaking book if the advice is about taking a public speaking course?? Freaking ridiculous... watch out for these clowns.

To finish this section on nerves... you're going to just have to suck it up and deal with it. And that is the absolute truth when it comes down to it.

No book, no course, no program, nothing will teach you how to get rid of nerves. These are engrained into our bodies and it's a defense mechanism that has existed for as long as humans have existed.

It's that fight or flight mechanism. We all have it, we all get nervous, and it's something that we all deal with. The best way to get through them is to not think about them, get excited, and start with the speech!

Let's move on to the next section.

Speech Examples and Templates

Hi, it's Sarah. I hope you've learned a lot about speech writing from Jeff. It's one of the exact methods that professional speakers use when they write their speeches.

Now if you're looking for examples and templates to you, I recommend that you check out my friend Belinda's guide called:

[Exclusive Maid of honor Speeches – Speeches to Spellbind Your Audience](#)

It's actually the same guide that I found last year when I had to write and give a speech. I wanted examples to use and some templates to follow and Belinda's guide gave me everything I needed.

Final Words

And that's it! You've got all you need to write a great speech. Using the mind map, you'll be able to come up with all sorts of speech topics. Remember to spend 1 minute speaking about each main point. That's really all you need for note taking. No need to fill up a notepad and overwhelm yourself.

Your brain is a powerful tool so be sure to use it. Being able to look at 1 word and tell the story behind it is the idea here. This isn't necessarily a skill, but you will want to practice this. You'll be surprised at how quickly your speech comes together after 4-5 attempts of practice.

The mind map alone will give you all you need to write a great maid of honor speech.

Be sure to check out Belinda's guide if you need some examples and templates to follow. She's got over 20 of them and they're all top-notch.

Thanks for reading!

Sarah