INTRODUCTORY SPEECH
ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVES
The introductory speech should help students to:
• begin a study of public speaking in a low risk setting
• practice on speaking within a time limit
• begin the process of getting to know their classmates
• work on conversational delivery

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION
We all have those stories about ourselves that we love to tell. In telling a story about yourself, others get to know us a little bit better. This assignment asks you to tell one of your favorite stories from your personal history. It can be a funny or serious story; all that matters is that you have told this story many times before. You simply need to tell this story to your classmates. What is different is that you must conclude your story with some type of moral or lesson (e.g. “And that was when I truly learned that you never want to give your car keys at an angry bear” or “So, it is true what they say, ‘a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush’”).

REQUIREMENTS
• The story can run no longer than 2 minutes.
• You cannot use a notecard (why would you need it? You’ve told this story before)
• You must end the story with sometime of moral or lesson you learned.

HINTS ON DOING WELL
• Practice: The more you practice the story, the more comfortable you will be with it and the more enjoyable it will be to listen to.
• Speak normally: Don’t adopt an artificial sounding “speech voice.” Such voices always sound disingenuous.
• Remain within the bounds of decorum: I want you to have fun, but this is a story that is introducing you to your classmates and your teacher. If your story was a movie, it should carry a G or PG rating.
• Pick something that you can speak on comfortably: Make sure this is a story that you know that you can speak on comfortably in front of an audience of strangers. You would hate to get halfway through and then realize that this was too personal of a story.
• Have fun: This is the lowest intensity speech you will give all quarter, so you better enjoy it now.