



WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? Questions that can give you **Main Point** for your speech presentation.

- what occupies you?
- where/how you are challenged?
- where/how you are making a difference to you and others?
- what occupies your time other than school work – why do you enjoy that?
- what kind of movies, TV shows, books, readings appeal to you and why?
- what kind of experiences have stayed close to your heart, what kind of emotions do they inspire in you (whether that is happiness, fear, challenge, anxiety, fun ...etc.)?
- what worries you, what brings anxiety to you?
- what are your dreams, goals?
- Which movies did you enjoy? Which movies left a lasting impression on you? Why? What to you enjoy reading?

More questions/prompts copied directly from college applications:

- Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then share your story.
- The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or tie when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or an idea. What prompted you to act?
- Describe a problem you've solved, or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma – anything that is of personal importance, not matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
- What were your favorite events (e.g. performances, exhibits, competitions, conferences ...etc.) in recent years?
- How did you spend your last two summers?

- What is the most significant challenge that society faces today?
- What newspapers, magazines, and/or websites do you enjoy?
- What historical moment or event do you wish you could have witnessed?
- Write a note to your future roommate, that reveals something about you, or that will help your roommate.
- What matters to you and why?
- Tell us about a time you were exposed to a new idea or when your beliefs were challenged by another point of view.
- What TV show will you binge watch next?
- Describe something outside of your academic area of focus that you are interested in learning.

WHY DO THIS? HOW WILL THESE SPEECH TOPICS HELP?

- They create opportunity to speak from the heart. And when that happens, you naturally have more energy, enthusiasm and passion for it. They make it easier to create the emotional pull using body language, vocal variety, facial gestures we'd like to develop at toastmasters.
- These topics will broaden your perspective.
- They will help you clarify your own thoughts.
- The thinking process will get your juices flowing about questions you will be answering when you apply to colleges and after that career choice. It might be sooner for some of you and maybe a few years later for some of you – in either case, it only helps that you think about it while navigating through middle school and high school years.

