Heart of Texas Regional History Fair
Tips for Speakers and Performers

Introduction

- Make it an attention getter!
- Show the significance of your topic to the audience.
- Make your thesis or central idea clear.
- Preview areas you will cover.

Body

- Divide your presentation into clear areas (preferably three).
- Provide clear transitions to each area.
- Cite all sources in your annotated bibliography. Using words from other sources without giving credit is plagiarism!

Conclusion

- Strive for a dramatic climax.
- Make sure your performance supports your conclusion.
- Close with memorable words.

Delivery

- Make direct eye contact with your audience.
- Practice using gestures; choreograph your movements.
- Speak clearly.
- Vary your speaking rate.
- Use pauses.
- Move for emphasis and transitions.
- Vary your pitch.

And the rest

- Don't let a flub ruin your performance. Remember, there is no such thing as a perfect speaker, and you will be judged on how well you recover more than on your mistakes.
- Make your audience care. Stories are wonderful; your audience wants to respond emotionally.
- Talk *to* the individuals in the audience, not *at* the audience as an anonymous group.
- Make an audio or video recording of your performance and review it carefully.
- Get honest feedback from friends, teachers, and parents.
- Practice, practice, practice!