

Use Context Clues (The 'W's): Quickly note the basic elements: Who is speaking? What is the general subject? When and Where might this be taking place? (A talk in a classroom vs. a radio interview has different contexts).



The Hook/Thesis: In many structured speeches, the main idea is presented in the very first or second sentence. Listen for introductory phrases like: "Today, I want to talk about..." or "The most important thing to remember is..."



Identify the Speaker's Purpose: Ask yourself: Why is the speaker talking? Are they trying to:

- Inform (give facts)?
- Persuade (change your mind)?
- Explain (how something works)?
- Entertain (tell a story)?

