

Introduce a Classmate/Speaker

In the career world, introductions have more than just a social meaning; they also have networking and influence potential if handled properly. In this class you will learn to introduce a speaker in such a way as to create anticipation in the audience that an interesting and credible presentation is about to begin. When introducing people in a business networking way, many principles are the same. The parties being introduced should immediately see that an acquaintanceship between them could be interesting and perhaps even useful. Thus, the introducer should know enough about the person being presented AND the person (or group) receiving the introduction to help both parties see the importance of the association.

This activity will have two parts: an introduction and an acquaintanceship match. Be sure to listen to all introductions carefully so that you will be able to complete the second part of the activity.

Part One, Introduction Instructions:

Find a partner, preferably someone you do not know already. Ask your partner several questions:

- 1) What is your name and how do you pronounce it correctly?
- 2) Where are you from and where did you grow up?
- 3) What events led to your choice of DeVry, your major field of study, and your career choice?
- 4) What accomplishment (skill) of yours are you most proud of?
- 5) What is something unique about yourself?
- 6) What is a value(s) that is very important to you or that you wish to live by?
- 7) What goal do you wish to accomplish in the next 5 years?
- 8) Where do you wish to be (location, socially, career, personal) in the next 5 years?

When you introduce the person, you want to create enthusiasm and a warm welcome for the person you are presenting. Be energetic and positive. Open with a phrase such as "I am pleased to present..." or "Allow me to present..." or "Today I introduce to you..." Be sure to end with, "Let's hear a warm welcome (applause) for..."

Part Two, Matching Instructions:

Listen carefully to all introductions and make notes about your classmates. When called upon by your instructor, give two names of people who should meet each other because they either have an interest in common or skill that could be useful to each other. They may have a common origin (state, country, etc.) or philosophy of living or life/career goal. Suggest some reason they might both benefit from a conversation together.