

# **Public Speaking**

**Introduction**

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# Public Speaking

## ■ “Talk is cheap”

– Not anymore, a well organized, thoughtful talk makes many people a very lucrative wage

■ Henry Kissinger

■ Barbara Walters

■ Colin Powell

# Similarities between PS and Conversation

- **Organize your thoughts**
  - Giving someone directions to your house
- **Tailor your message to the audience**
  - Your 5 year old asks you where babies come from
  - Your 14 year old asks you where babies come from
  - Your 22 year old asks the same question
- **Telling a story for maximum impact**
  - Don't tell the "punch line" of a story first
- **Adapting to listener feedback**
  - Watch for non-verbal feedback – looks of confusion, looks of pain or hurtfulness

# Differences between PS and Conversation

- PS is more structured
  - Usually time limited
  - Questions not allowed to interrupt the speech,
    - usually left for at end (time permitting)
- PS requires more formal language
  - No slang, jargon or bad grammar
  - Speeches should be something special so that they qualify as life events and are remembered
- PS requires a different method for delivery
  - More formal delivery
    - No vocalized pauses – “uh”, “ah”, “um”
    - Don't use stock phrases repeatedly – “you know”, “basically”, “I mean”