

## 2 Speeches

### 2.1 Getting started: Basics

In your exam you are likely not only to analyse somebody else's speech, but also to write a speech yourself. Being able to analyse something is a useful prerequisite for producing it yourself, so make sure you are familiar with analysing speeches before you continue (→ see pp.11-14).

- a) *The three tasks below do not refer to any texts in this book, but show you different kinds of tasks which you might encounter in an exam. In all three of them you are expected to write the script of a structured comment on a topic which is to be delivered to an audience on a certain occasion. Read the tasks carefully and underline the keywords.*

**Example 1:** Both students from your school and American exchange students take part in a formal debate on whether globalisation is a positive process or not. Give the introductory **statement**, in which you critically refer to the views expressed in the given leading article.

**Example 2:** On an exchange visit of your class to an English school, you are invited to take part in a discussion on the topic "Can a multicultural society really work?" Your contribution is a **talk** in which you comment on the topic from a German perspective, also considering the findings of the survey described in the text.

**Example 3:** In a speech in front of young college students, a member of the American government responds to the critical comments on US immigration policy made in the given article. Write the script for this **speech**, referring to the principles of American immigration policy and the concept of the American Dream.

- b) *There are small but notable differences between the terms 'speech', 'talk' and 'statement'. Fill in the correct term in the definitions below. If you need help, look them up in a dictionary.*

The \_\_\_\_\_ is the longest and most formal one.




The \_\_\_\_\_ is usually the shortest of the three text types.

The \_\_\_\_\_ may be less formal and more entertaining than the others.

- c) *Answer the following questions for the three tasks above. Fill in the gaps, and be aware of what you are expected to do.*

#### Tip!

to give/make a speech,  
talk or statement  
(on/about sth)  
not: to hold a speech

Questions	Tasks (above)	What you have to do:
<p><b>Who is speaking?</b></p> <p>If you are not the speaker: What is his/her perspective on and knowledge of the topic?</p>	<p>Task 1: you (as a critic of the opinion given in the text)</p> <p>Task 2: </p> <p>Task 3: a member of the US government ("you are speaking in role")</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose fitting (formal) language (choice of words) and keep your tone serious.</li> <li>Use informal language and humour only for a special effect.</li> <li>Present yourself as a confident and trustworthy person.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Who is being addressed?</b></p> <p>Is your audience described in the task? What are its expectations?</p>	<p>Task 1: </p> <p>Task 2: mostly English pupils</p> <p>Task 3: </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose the right address: Ladies and gentlemen, ...</li> <li>Connect with the listeners at the very beginning: I really appreciate being here with you today ...</li> <li>Take up their expectations: I know what you expect me to do: ...</li> <li>Use easy rhetorical devices, e.g. contrast: Undoubtedly, this is a time of ... But at the same time it is also a period of ...</li> <li>Ask for support and trust.</li> </ul>