“If life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” What does this mean to you and why?

“No man is an island.” What does that mean to you?

Are children of today better off than children were 50 years ago?

Ask the audience to turn their chairs around so they can’t see you. Then tell them a brief story of something that happened to you (any topic). Have them turn back and discuss with them how much more difficult it is to both speak and to listen without the visual aspect of speech.

Describe “a winner.”

Describe a family member who is very important to you.

Describe a time when you learned not to “judge a book by its cover.”

Describe one of the funniest things that ever happened to you.

Describe your perfect day.

Discuss the following: “Once the game is over, the king and the pawn go back into the same box.”

Do you think children in elementary school and junior high school should have cell phones? Why or why not?

Explain some ways a child can (or should) learn responsibility.

Explain to the audience one thing they can do today to make them better people.

Explain to your audience one or two ways they can improve their moral character and become overall better human beings by doing so. Avoid religious topics.

Give the audience some advice that will be helpful if they chose to take a vacation to your favorite vacation place.
Give the audience some good advice for a first date.

Give the audience some information they will find helpful if they decide to take a vacation to your favorite vacation spot.

How do you define “bravery”?

How do you define “intelligence”?

How do you define “loyalty”?

How do you define “sadness”?

How has the Internet changed global awareness and communication?

If a being from another planet offered you the opportunity to leave Earth and visit other worlds, would you go? Why or why not?

If money were no object, what would be your ideal profession and why?

If the President of the United States called you today and asked which national issue should be his top priority, what would you tell him? Why?

If the president of the United States called you up today and asked for your advice on one thing that would make this country better, what would you tell him?

If you could be any animal (other than human), what would you be and why?

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would you change and why?

If you could have any talent or skill you don’t currently possess, what would you wish to have and why?

If you could have been a “fly on the wall” to personally witness any great moment in history, where and when would you like to have been? Why?
If you could have one of Superman’s powers—the ability to fly, x-ray vision, or incredible strength—which one would you like to have and why?

If you could improve your looks by proportionately decreasing your intelligence, would you do it? (Ex. To be 10% better looking, you’d be 10% less intelligent.) What about the other way around (improve your intelligence by giving up some of your looks)—would you do that?

If you could meet any two people (currently living or not), who would you like to meet and why?

If you could trade places with any one person (living or not) for a day, who would you be and why?

If you could travel back in time 100 years and talk to the President of the United States, what would you tell him?

If you developed a potion that would allow people to live to be 200 years old, would you make it available, even though it would mean a huge increase in world population, overcrowding, pollution, and so on?

If you found out your life would be over in 24 hours, what would you do on your last living day?

If you had the ability to travel back in time 100 years or forward in time 100 years, which time period would you visit and why?

If you had the opportunity to be rich OR famous, which would you choose to be and why?

If you had the opportunity to visit any place in the world for a week, where would you visit and why?

If you had to spend the rest of your life with only one other person, who would you choose and why?

If you met with the president of Northwest Vista College today, what suggestion(s) would you give her on how to improve the college?

If you were the president of Northwest Vista College, the first thing you would do is….
If you were the president of the United States, the first thing you would do is…

If you were to give some good advice to a younger brother or sister, based on something you learned at their age, what advice would you give and why?

Imagine that you just discovered the cure for cancer. This would mean saving thousands of lives per year, even though it would also ruin thousands more for people who work in the pharmaceutical business, as cancer doctors, surgeons, nurses, and so on. Would you share the cure with the world or not?

Is a glass half empty or half full? Explain your answer.

Is effective communication a required skill for success?

Is it important for children to become involved in extracurricular activities such as sports or music? Explain your answer.

Is it true that a society must have arts (art, music, literature) to be civilized?

Make up a story about a time you got arrested and spent the night in jail. See if you can trick the audience into believing every word.

Should professional athletes be expected to serve as role models for young people?

Should public school students be required to wear uniforms?

Should teenagers be allowed to have credit cards?

Teach the class how to make a paper airplane. (Audience participation is encouraged.)

Tell about something you experienced when you were learning how to drive.

Tell of a situation when you were really disappointed. What did you learn from the experience?

Tell of a situation when your best just wasn’t good enough.
Tell of a situation where you thought “the grass was greener on the other side of the fence,” but it didn’t turn out that way.

Tell of a situation you have always regretted or wish you could do over.

Tell of a time when you “found out the hard way.”

Tell of something you experienced when you were learning how to drive.

Tell the audience a familiar fairy tale that you know well (Cinderella, The Three Little Pigs, etc.), but force them to become involved through questioning. For example, “So who knows what happened next?” or “And what did the Prince find on the castle steps?” The idea is to demonstrate how easy it is to get the audience involved.

Tell the audience about a favorite pet.

Tell the audience about someone you wish you could be more like, and why?

Tell the audience about the most embarrassing thing (or one of the most embarrassing things) that ever happened to you.

The best way to destroy a perfectly good friendship is….

The biggest difference(s) between men and women is (are)….

The philosopher Nietzsche said, “That which doesn’t kill us makes us strong.” Explain what that means. Try to include an example from your own life.

What are the qualities of a good parent?

What have you learned about yourself since you started college?

What is some advice you would give to a high school senior who is not sure about going to college?
What is the best (or worst) book you ever read and why?

What is the best (or worst) movie you ever saw and why?

What is the greatest cause of violence in our society?

What is the meaning of “perfection”?

What is the meaning of “success”?

What is the most dangerous aspect of modern society?

What is your definition of “attitude”?

What was the best advice your mother (or other family member) ever gave you?

What would be your solution to the graffiti problem in our neighborhoods?

What would you do if you won the lottery?

When you use the Internet, some companies are able to track the pages you visit and then tailor their advertising, such as pop-up ads, to your interests. Do you think this is a convenience or an invasion of privacy?

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

Where do you think the human race is headed in terms of “a global society”?

Which is more important: education or common sense? Why?

Which is your favorite season of the year and why?

Who do you admire? Why?
Who do you consider to be a great leader and why?

Who is your favorite celebrity and why?

Who is your hero? Why?

Who was your best teacher ever, and why?

Why or why not should high school students have jobs?

Will there ever be world peace?

You are 100 years old today! You have gathered all your family members to tell them some things....

You are throwing “the ideal dinner party” to which you can invite anyone you want (currently living or not). Who are at least four people you would invite and why?

You are unable to move from the neck down. Sit in a chair and describe in vivid detail how to dribble a basketball or soccer ball. (You can use another sport if you’re not familiar with basketball or soccer.)

Your audience is a class of high school students. The guidance counselor has asked you, as a successful college student who graduated from that high school, to talk to the students about the benefits of attending college.

Your audience is a class of kindergarteners. Tell them that, then teach them how to tie a shoelace. (Hint: audience participation!)

Your audience is a group of tourists visiting San Antonio for the first time. Tell them about 2 or 3 places they should be sure to visit.

Your audience is a kindergarten class; you are a police officer (or crossing guard). Explain to them how to cross a street the right way. Get them involved!