



C Coach's Corner



Lori Lococo, DTM is the Inaugural District 86 Governor and has been a Toastmaster for 9 ½ years. She is the Administrator at the largest law firm in Niagara Falls, Canada and has been with the firm for 20 years.



Lori Lococo, DTM, PDG

lori.lococo@bell.net

905 357 5902

The Ultimate Toastmaster Tool

by Lori Lococo, DTM, PDG

So, what exactly is Coach's Corner?

Coach's Corner is a brainstorming tool that brings a member's speech ideas to a group setting.

The member benefits through the teamwork experience by getting many fresh perspectives on a particular speech project which they have the opportunity to present at the club's next meeting.



The coaching group benefits through the teamwork experience by listening to innovative ways to tackle their own speech projects and the opportunity to practice listening, evaluation and feedback skills.

Coach's Corner was born out an effort to bring highly effective and unique elements to Lakeshore In Depth Advanced Toastmasters in Thorold, Ontario, Canada.

We will discuss the elements of a successful Coach's Corner and how it benefits each member, the coaching group and the club as a whole. We will investigate how Coach's Corner can be a magic bullet for a struggling meeting or club.

These are all suggestions and Coach's Corner can be molded to fit your Toastmasters Club. Make it your own.

Welcome to The Best Toastmasters Club in the World – Club #123 November 9, 2009 - Meeting #2

Skill of the Day:	The Use of the Pause	Speaker # 1	Barack Obama
Toastmaster/Chair	Richard Nixon	Evaluator # 1	Ronald Reagan
General Evaluator	Lyndon Johnson	Evaluator # 2	George Washington
Table Topics	John F. Kennedy	Speaker # 2	Bill Clinton
Timer		Evaluator # 1	Gerald Ford
		Evaluator # 2	George Bush
Educational Session:	Harry Truman		
Evaluator # 1	Dwight Eisenhower		
Evaluator #2	Abraham Lincoln		

- 7:30 Meeting Called to Order** Sgt. At Arms
- 7:31 Opening Remarks & Introduction of Skill of the day** – (5 min) Toastmaster
Agenda Adjustments
If Guests - Introduction of Members/Roles/Guests
- 7:40 Educational Session** – (50 min)
 Harry Truman – **Conducting Effective Meetings**
- 8:30 Recess** (10 min)
- 8:40 Sergeant at Arms - Call Meeting Back to Order** - Toastmaster
Introduction of Speakers (1 minute between speakers for evaluation)
- 8:42 Speaker #1** – Barack Obama, (5 – 7 min)
Speaker #2 - Bill Clinton (5-7 min)
- 8:57 Introduction of General Evaluator**
 Evaluation of Speaker #1 – First Evaluator (2 – 3 min)
 Evaluation of Speaker # 1 – Second Evaluator (2 – 3 min)
 Rejoinder (1 min)
 Additional evaluations if time permits
- Evaluation of Speaker #2 – First Evaluator (2 – 3 min)
 Evaluation of Speaker # 2 – Second Evaluator (2 – 3 min)
 Rejoinder (1 min)
 Additional evaluations if time permits
- Evaluation of Educational Session – First Evaluator (2-3 min)
 Evaluation of Educational Session – Second Evaluator (2 -3 min)
 Rejoinder (1 min)
- 9:10 Report of Timer**
 General Evaluation of Meeting
- 9:20 President - Guest Comments, Member Comments & Adjournment**

**Welcome to The Best Toastmasters Club in the World – Club #123
October 26, 2009 - Meeting #1**

Skill of the Day:	Body Language	Speaker # 1	Jimmy Carter
Toastmaster/Chair	Abraham Lincoln	Evaluator # 1	Harry Truman
General Evaluator	George Washington	Evaluator # 2	Franklin Roosevelt
Table Topics	George Bush	Speaker # 2	Herbert Hoover
Timer	John Adams	Evaluator # 1	John Quincy Adams
		Evaluator # 2	Thomas Jefferson
Coach's Corner			
Barack Obama	Ronald Reagan	Richard Nixon	John F. Kennedy
Bill Clinton	Gerald Ford	Lyndon Johnson	Dwight Eisenhower

- 7:30 Meeting Called to Order** Sgt. At Arms
- 7:31 Opening Remarks & Introduction of Skill of the day** – (5 min) Toastmaster
Agenda Adjustments
If Guests - Introduction of Members/Roles/Guests
- 7:40 Table Topics** – (20 min) - (1-2 min) - **Use Skill of the Day**
- 8:00 Coach's Corner** - (20 min)
Barack Obama
Bill Clinton
- 8:20 Recess** (10 min)
- 8:30 Sergeant at Arms - Call Meeting Back to Order** - Toastmaster
Introduction of Speakers (1 minute between speakers for evaluation)
- 8:32 Speaker #1** – Jimmy Carter, (5 – 7 min)
Speaker #2 - Herert Hoover (5-7 min)
- 8:47 Introduction of General Evaluator**
Evaluation of Speaker #1 – First Evaluator (2 – 3 min)
Evaluation of Speaker # 1 – Second Evaluator (2 – 3 min)
Rejoinder (1 min)
Additional evaluations if time permits
- Evaluation of Speaker #2 – First Evaluator (2 – 3 min)
Evaluation of Speaker # 2 – Second Evaluator (2 – 3 min)
Rejoinder (1 min)
Additional evaluations if time permits
- Evaluation of Educational Session – First Evaluator (2-3 min)
Evaluation of Educational Session – Second Evaluator (2 -3 min)
Rejoinder (1 min)
- 9:10 Report of Timer**
General Evaluation of Meeting
- 9:20 President - Guest Comments, Member Comments & Adjournment**

Benefits of Coach's Corner

Brainstorming: It is an art. You have to practice. Often, our agenda does not allow for this free flowing concept. Discussion may spark an idea for something completely different.

Discussion Prior: Many members do not speak to anyone until after their speech. This gives them an opportunity to speak to many people before, get new ideas, strengthen the ones they already have and feel excited about putting the speech together.



Mentors: Not all members have a mentor. This gives the opportunity for many mentors to contribute. It forms relationships with other members that maybe might not be found in a traditional meeting setup.

Other Manuals: Since there are 15 advanced manuals, it gives an opportunity to learn about them in greater detail. This may help in choosing your next manual.

Speaker: Coach's Corner can produce a speaker in the second half of the meeting, the next meeting or whenever the Coachee would like to be scheduled.

Inspire: Often members are stuck in a rut. During and after Coach's Corner, they feel inspired and want to work on the project that they may have been stuck on for months.

Magic Bullet: Invite members from other clubs to participate. It increases the camaraderie between clubs, fills in vacant spots on the agenda and fills in speaking spots for future meetings. All of the benefits listed above contribute to a successful meeting or club.

“Coachee” is the member with a project and is being coached. “Coach” or “Coaches” are the member helping the “Coachee” with their project;

Vice President of Education could schedule two or more sets of Coach’s Corner at once, depending on room size and number of members. (see Meeting #1 agenda);

A Coachee can ask for a specific person to be in their session;

Group size is important. The Coach could have anywhere from 3 – 5 coaches per session. Much more than that would dilute the ideas and there is not enough time for everyone to speak;

Coach’s Corner can be scheduled from a minimum of 20 minutes to a maximum of 30 minutes;

When scheduling the Coaches, try to have a mix of men, women, younger, older, new to Toastmasters, seasoned Toastmasters, different Toastmasters achievements (CC, DTM, etc);

If there are more members at meeting that will comfortably fit into Coach’s Corner, they can watch, listen and learn. If too many people offer their opinions, it is difficult to stay on track;

Schedule Coach’s Corner a set number of times per month or use at a meeting that does not have speakers;

The Coachee will prepare ahead of time and have their manual, objective and speech idea ready. They will also discuss the challenges that they are having;

It is helpful to separate the groups so that they are not disturbed. If possible, have two rooms, a divider or different ends of a room;

If there are no speeches during a meeting, have Coach’s Corner in the first half and then during the second half, the Coachee can deliver their speech. Note: Not everyone would be comfortable doing this;

The SAA can assist with timing and give a 5 minute warning before the end of the session;



Someone in the group should act and be recognized as a “Facilitator” or “Lead Coach” and ensure that everyone gets an opportunity to speak. If someone is not talking, encourage them;

Determine how each person will speak. Will each person have a pre-determined time, ex 2 minutes and then go on to the next person? Will it be more interactive?;

The Coachee can take notes or have someone take notes for them. Or, if agreed, the session can be taped;

Everyone can benefit but the goal is to help the Coachee with their speech. Keep focused!;

Be respectful of others. All ideas are good ideas and spark other ideas;

Give everyone the opportunity to speak;

The Coaches can ask questions to understand the objectives or the speech idea;

If near the end of the session and the Coachee has not got exactly what they were looking for, the Coachee can bring the session back to their specific questions in order to help them;

If there is not enough time and you have more comments, you can write them down and give them to the Coachee or talk to them after the meeting;

We are all Coaches and Mentors. We have knowledge and experience that we can share with others;

Offer suggestions of what you have learned in different Toastmasters manuals or projects. This educates everyone;

After Coach’s Corner, Vice President of Education will schedule the Coachees to be speakers at the next meeting or a meeting that is convenient. (see Meeting #2 agenda);

Some clubs have 2 evaluators for each speech. If this is the case, have one of the Coaches from the session evaluate the speech at the next meeting.