

CLAASS TALKS : GUIDELINES

CLAASS TALKS is an event created by Civil Lines School Alumni Association (CLAASS) in which Alumni of the school interact with the students enlightening them about life after school, its challenges, its joys and sorrows, its defeats and victories and how to cope with it through the story of their own journey.

Keeping the sensitivity of the young, impressionable school children and setting of the school in mind, the following guidelines have been framed to avoid controversies and any negative impact of the talks.

1. The talk is generally preceded and succeeded by a small introduction, some questions/reactions by the audience and vote of thanks; and the total duration of the event must be restricted to one hour.
2. Keeping the above in view please restrict the duration of the talk to 18-20 minutes.
3. Preferably write a script of your talk and practice it on the same speaking speed at which you will deliver it. This will give you a very fair idea of the time you will take at the event. Estimates in mind can be wrong, often.
4. Please keep politics, religion and religious ideas out of your talk at all costs.
5. If you are a seasoned speaker, you may decide your own pattern. If you are not, preferably structure your talk in three parts. An introduction, a main body of the talk and the conclusions.
6. The conclusions may be the "take home" points of your talk. Try to give 1 to 3 clear and practical take home points.
7. Another alternative way to structure your talk in 3 parts is
 - a) Narrate an incident from your time in school
 - b) Narrate an incident from the college/higher studies life
 - c) Narrate an incident from your professional life

Try to derive a take home point from each episode and conclude your talk with clearly stating the take home points.
8. You may also choose to pick up just one powerful idea and structure your whole talk around it. In such a case please do support your idea with some personal stories or anecdotes or powerful observations or original research work.
9. Please keep in mind that you are addressing school children and there are certain ideas which are fine as an adult but should not be suggested to school children e.g. it is alright to say "I do not read newspapers to avoid negativity" in your friend circle but do not suggest it to the school children. School children need to be given the habit of reading newspapers to keep them updated of current affairs. Please examine all your ideas on the above parameter.
10. Although the children in the school are illustrious and understand and follow English, it is the best to plan your talk in Hindlish. The ideas get conveyed more powerfully.
11. None of the students in the school have any qualms about studying in a govt. school. They are as happy and proud of the school as we used to be. Please do not make any comment suggesting "public schools are better today"; or "Civil Lines School was better in old times".
12. Try to make your talk a little interactive by involving the students. This will not only get you a little feedback during the talk but also get you a more attentive audience.

Get ready for the Happiness of coming back to your alma mater and talking to your successors. HAPPY TALKING