

School Activity

Role model speeches at science awareness events

Who is an ideal Role model?

- A Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) professional or STEM graduate of any university or university of technology
- Preferably under the age of 35
- Originating from an area in the province where event is held or from similar background
- Have language ability to connect with the attendees
- Hold a post in a science, engineering or technology (SET) organisation (preferably not an intern or youth volunteer)

Purpose of the speech by the role model

- To share personal experiences and successes with the learners
- Share stories to inspire the listeners (learners)
- Leave the learners with a key message

Suggested structure of the talk / speech

- Plan the talk to be 15min long. It often extends to 20min (max). Leave time for questions.

Opening:	<p>Suggested structure for opening</p> <p>Attention: draw attention with a powerful quote/ an alarming statistic/a very short story</p> <p>Benefits: share how the listener will benefit by listening to you (e.g. by end of the talk you will be able to ...)</p> <p>Credentials: why can you speak to the crowd (I was a learner like you/ I hold a degree in...)</p> <p>Direction: What will you be covering in your talk</p>	Max 5min
Body:	<p>Who were your role models as a child / learner? Why? How did they impact your studies or your career choices?</p> <p>Tell short and impactful stories of yourself or others with similar backgrounds</p> <p>e.g. A defining moment which can be (one of the following – not all three)</p> <p>a) a person you met (who inspired you) or b) an event you attended (like today) – which changed you or c) a decision you made (which gave you focus)</p> <p>Focus on a challenge you had, and how you overcame it. Make sure the listeners can connect with your struggles and overcoming the challenge</p> <p>Overall, decide on 3-5 MAIN POINTS that you want to share. Repeat the points at the end, namely your takeaway message</p>	Max 12 min
Closure:	Re-iterate your main points. End with your MAIN Point/ message . Tell a final story or use another powerful quote.	Max 5min

Do not

- Give a 10 minute talk on your family details, your primary school(s), high schools, and university studies – this can be very boring - just highlight which school, where and the general details Recommended alternative e.g. " I was at a public school in a township outside Klerksdorp of about 1000 learners and 30 teachers with about 50 learners in a class." ✓

Rather give a general picture of your family and schooling (max 5 sentences)

- Too much personal details of your psychological or health issues, which you needed to overcome the problem.

Rather just state that "my setbacks in my studies, caused me to go for counselling and later that year I passed 75% of my courses".