



A Thrilling Speech-Coaster

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Just as likely as roller coaster rides, competing in a competition needs adrenaline to be ambitious yet to be brave to show up upon the public eyes. Most people would feel nervous, shaken hands, shivering, trembling, and overthinking when competing. Well, I would say those are normal and common things that everyone happens to feel. Apparently, those things also happen to me. Even though I am given the skill of good English, typical me happens to sweat and have lots of butterflies in my stomach while facing inner fear. As riding a roller coaster is full of risk and uncertainty, yet

competition shares similar characteristics. When competing, there's always a level of unpredictability and unknown outcomes. Just as you brace yourself for unexpected twists and turns on a roller coaster, competitors must be prepared for unforeseen obstacles, tough opponents, or changing circumstances. When you do a roller coaster ride for the first time, you will get excited to sit and buckle up on the ride, the second after you see the circle hoop track you feel nervous, thinking whether you would survive or not riding this coaster. Well competing is much alike as coasters. The moment you apply yourself to a competition you will feel elated and your spirit is firing up. But then a moment after, you feel super nervous looking around at your opponents and judges.

Even though it was a tough fight to decide whether to compete or not, it does not mean I quit to do something out of my league, yet just like riding a roller coaster often challenges my comfort zone and pushed me to face fears. Similarly, competition encourages me to step out of my comfort zones, test my abilities, and strive for improvement. Both experiences provide opportunities for personal growth and self-discovery.



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One of the best competitions that I compete in is The Speech Competition of The Office Explorer (TOE) 7.0 that is conducted by Universitas Negeri Jakarta. I was being encouraged by my super warm-hearted lecturers Miss Gaby and Miss Ricka who support my English skills and I happened to be willing to compete in this speech competition. The competition was held online by zoom meeting on Saturday, 15 April 2023. Here's a thing, I am not the only one who is delegated to compete, yet I have three other friends within my campus to join. Their names are Saska, Kania, and Mya. Even though they are second semester students and younger than me, their ability in English cannot be underestimated. But here is a new fear unlocked, not only that I compete with external students yet also I compete with my own campus friends. Right, a chill pill is what I needed that time.

Two weeks before the Big Day, the committee issued a Technical Meeting regarding the mechanism of competition. It went smoothly, and that was the time that I was given the topic of my speech. As a starting point, I had a consultation with Miss Gaby about what to bring up in my following speech on the topic of "The Importance of Business Correspondence".

Thanks to her kindness and brilliant ideas, she encouraged me to make a bait to engage the audience by presenting a meme. I struggled so hard on this speech whether in engaging the audience, yet also about the content of the speech.

I had about five days to submit the written script, and another five days to practice the speech. In the process of making the script, I surfed through lots of data and pondered for quite some time about the content of the speech. It was truly a mixed feeling of anxiety and elated for the big day. Also, I prepared some memes that could cheer up the audience.



The meme that I showed to the audience





Five days down, another five came along. Within these five days, practicing seems to be easy yet crucial if you do not have a good memory. Five days seems enough for practicing, yet it went so fast just like a blip. I practiced night and day to acknowledge the content of my speech.

Time went so fast that it was the Big Day, the day to perform at my best. Precisely at 7 on a beautiful Saturday morning, I woke up, showered, and freshened up getting ready for the competition. All electronic devices were fully charged, fully equipped. The moment before I entered the zoom meeting room, my hands were sweating, over trembling within my body just like an earthquake happened. Seconds later, the committee called my name and told me that I had the authority to enter the zoom meetings. I greeted the judges, and the committee then they gave me a sign to start my speech. I took a deep inhale then exhaled through my mouth, then I performed. The moment I started the speech, I was overthinking that I spoke too fast. Then I tried to refocus and just like a snap of a finger I successfully finished my speech without any flaws. It went very fast, with a time showing 6 minutes of speech that fulfilled the requirement. What a tough experience to have. The moment after I finished my speech, I delivered my sincere gratitude to the judges for the awesome chance to deliver my speech. I waited for any feedback or comments from the judges, but there were none. Then the committee gave me signs to leave the zoom meetings. The moment it was finished, I kind of overthink since there were no comments, no feedback, that I think my speech must not be attentive or interesting. But I tried to calm myself down and waited for the announcement day.

Weeks passed by; it was the moment of the unrevealing announcement of the winners. The committee planned to post the winners photos and certificates within their instagram feeds, but I did not really pay attention to the time they posted since I was on my weekends, so I chilled out. Until suddenly my friend texted me and congratulated me. What a plot twist. I rushed into the TOE instagram feed, and saw my face on display for taking second place. Good God, I did not expect anything like that. My heart was filled with happiness, and I burst through my lungs cheering for myself. It was not the first place, but hey it was a great achievement to have. I didn't lose. I got second. That's still winning. How could I be unhappy with second place? There are a million people who would love to be in my position.



Just the same as Formula One (F1) drivers that are nervous when the checkered flag is being waved, I would likely be the same as them. Even

though they are professionals in their own racing field, there is a tiny percent in their mind that

they feel nervous and anxious about who will win the Grand Prix. Apparently, I happen to encounter just the same as them. It does not matter whether you win or not, it matters for you to measure your own skills and most importantly to be brave stepping out from your

comfort bubble, yet also striving for inner growth. At my very last, Ciao!!/GN.



You've crossed the finish grid!!!

You deserve a toast!!!

