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## Try This

Choosing your own topic can be exciting! Start by listing six topics that interest you. They can be familiar topics or things that you want to learn more about. Next, take a close look at the topics you listed. Some might be just right for a short presentation. Others may be too broad. Narrow down any broad topics by focusing on a specific part.

### FOR EXAMPLE:

Too broad: Basketball players

More specific: Michael Jordan

Too broad: Swimming

More specific: The four  
common swimming strokes



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# Try This

There are many types of visual aids. You want to choose visual aids that help the audience understand your topic. On a separate piece of paper, match each purpose listed on the left with the visual aid on the right. Turn this page upside down to compare your answers to ours.

TOPIC: Australia

Purpose:

1. Learn where Australian cities are located
2. See what money is used in Australia
3. Learn how Australians throw boomerangs
4. See the pouches of Australian animals

Visual Aid:

- a. Pass around Australian coins
- b. Show photos of kangaroos and koalas
- c. Display a map
- d. Play a video

Answers: 1-c; 2-a; 3-d; 4-b

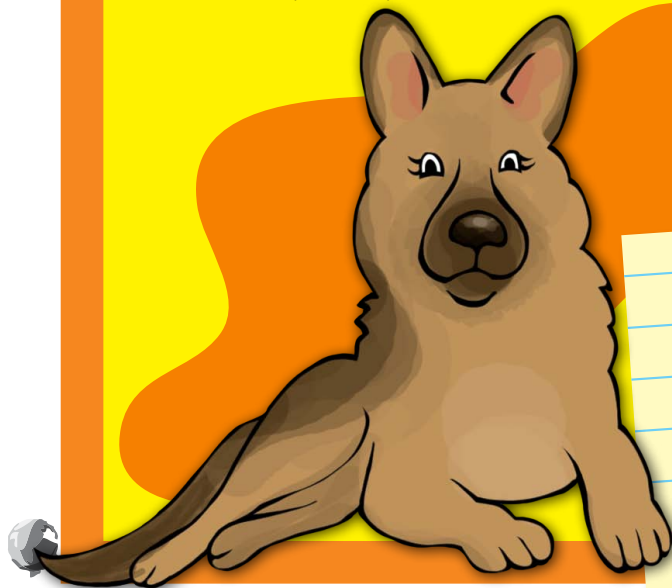


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## Try This

Read the following information about German shepherds. On a note card, write down several key words or phrases about what makes them good pets. Turn the page upside down to compare your notes to ours.

*German shepherds make excellent pets. They are great watchdogs, since they are naturally protective of their families. These dogs get along well with children. German shepherds are also very easy to train.*



- easy to train
- get along with children
- great watchdogs

OUR NOTES:

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# Try This

Ask someone to videotape you giving a presentation or telling a story. When you have finished, watch the video. Copy the chart below on a separate piece of paper. Use this to help you reflect on your performance.

In my presentation, I . . .	Not at all	Some	A lot
Spoke loudly and clearly			
Made eye contact			
Used fillers ("um," "you know")			
Spoke with expression			
Used gestures			

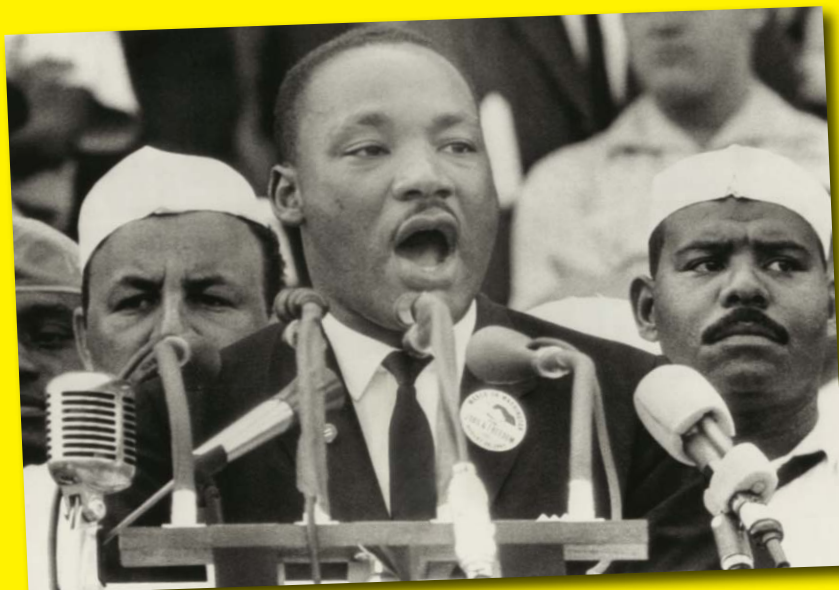
Discuss your answers with the person who took the video. How would he or she rate your performance? Which skills did you do well? Which ones need improvement?



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## Try This

With the help of an adult, search online for videos of famous speeches. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech and President John F. Kennedy's "We Choose to Go to the Moon" speech are examples of powerful oral presentations. Which skills from this book do the speakers use in their speeches?



Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches helped change history.