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How To Prepare a Bar / Bat Mitzvah Speech

The purpose of a Bar / Bat Mitzvah Speech is to afford you the opportunity to welcome your guests, thank the people who helped make your day special, and demonstrate that Torah and Judaism play an important role in your life as a young Jewish adult.

Before you begin

Prepare a list of:

- 1: People who have traveled a great distance that you would like to welcome.
- 2: Special guests that you would like to welcome.
- 3: People you would like to thank.
Parents / Grandparents
Teachers / Principal
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Teacher / Rabbi Etc...

Select a topic: Ask yourself...

What really excites me about Judaism?

What do I find most interesting about Judaism?

Do I have a particular mitzvah (commandment) that I find interesting?

A complete listing of the mitzvot can be found at www.jewfaq.org/613.htm.

Is there something in my Torah or Haftorah Reading I find interesting?

Go to http://www.myjewishlearning.com/texts/Weekly_Torah_Commentary.htm & <http://www.torah.org/learning/parsha/hsummary/index.html> for summaries, commentaries, and text studies on the weekly Torah portions.

Who is your audience? What will they find interesting?

Some topics selected by other B'nai Mitzvah Students include: The Holocaust, Anti-Semitism, The Music of Judaism, Being Jewish in a Non-Jewish World.

The topic is your choice as long as it has a connection to Judaism.

The Rabbi will be happy to help you identify texts and / or online resources to assist in constructing your speech. Many resources are available online. [Google.com](http://www.google.com), [Askjeeves.com](http://www.ck12.org) and [Yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) are only examples of the many search engines you can use to search the web for resources. [Myjewishlearning.com](http://www.myjewishlearning.com), [Shamash.org](http://www.shamash.org), [Torah.org](http://www.torah.org) and [Aish.org](http://www.ish.org), are also excellent resources.

Bringing Joy to Judaism

As you read the available texts and resources consider...

What practical things can be learned from your topic of interest?

How does this topic impact your life?

How have you learned from this topic?

Is this topic as relevant today as it was in the time of the Torah?

Is it applied differently?

Have circumstances evolved?

Why is it necessary for this matter to be discussed as a matter of religion?

An Outline of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Speech

- 1) Welcome friends and family.
- 2) Thank everybody for coming.
- 3) Special welcomes (mentioned above).
- 4) Special thank yous (mentioned above).
- 5) A brief explanation of the concept of Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
- 6) Introduce topic of discussion.
- 7) Explain why you selected this topic.
- 8) Present your thoughts on the topic.
- 9) Summarize and restate the main point.
- 10) Re-thank everybody for coming.
- 11) Close with the words, "Shabbat Shalom."

