- 1. **Stay Calm** Take a deep breath and pause for a moment to gather your thoughts.
- 2. **Acknowledge the Topic** Start by briefly acknowledging the surprise of the topic, which can give you a moment to think.
- 3. **Relate to Personal Experience** Find a way to connect the topic to your personal experiences or knowledge.
- 4. **Broad Themes** Identify broad themes or universal truths related to the topic that can guide your speech.
- 5. **Structure Your Thoughts** Use a simple structure, such as introducing the topic, discussing two to three main points, and concluding.
- 6. **Be Honest** If you're unfamiliar with the topic, it's okay to admit your lack of knowledge but pivot to related points you can discuss.
- 7. **Ask Rhetorical Questions** Pose questions to the audience to engage them and give yourself time to think.
- 8. **Use Humor** Light humor can help ease tension and make the audience more receptive.
- 9. **Emphasize Your Strengths** Steer the conversation towards areas where you feel more competent.
- 10. **Practice Improv Techniques** Engage in regular practice to enhance quick thinking and adaptability.