

Toastmasters International Lists 7 Most Buzzworthy Speeches of 2014

Presentations that captured the attention of audiences around the world

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, Calif., Dec. 10, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- What is the secret to giving a speech that is viewed and shared by millions of people? A successful speech resonates with interesting content and a heartfelt delivery. After viewing the most discussed and shared presentations of the year, Toastmasters International considers the following seven speeches most buzzworthy in 2014:

- **March 2:** When **Matthew McConaughey** won the Best Actor Oscar® for his performance in "Dallas Buyers Club," he described the three things he needs each day: 1. Something to look up to. 2. Something to look forward to. 3. Someone to chase. <http://bit.ly/1pmmnyL>
- **March 20:** In his TED Talk, leadership expert **Simon Sinek** explored what makes a great leader. He suggested it's someone who makes his or her employees feel secure and who draws staffers into a circle of trust. Creating trust and safety — especially in an uneven economy — means taking on big responsibility. <http://bit.ly/1xtPCSx>
- **May 6:** After winning the NBA Most Valuable Player Award, **Kevin Durant** brought the audience (and himself) to tears while thanking his mother during his acceptance speech for being "the real MVP." <http://bit.ly/1hx8S6u>
- **May 28:** Returning to Harvard, her alma mater, Facebook COO **Sheryl Sandberg** addressed the graduating seniors and told them, "The first time I spoke out about what it was like to be a woman in the workforce was less than five years ago. That means that for 18 years, from where you sit to where I stand, my silence implied that everything was OK. You can do better than I did, and I mean that so sincerely." <http://bit.ly/1ji2CAy>
- **Aug. 18:** After a tough loss in the Little League World Series, **David Belisle**, coach of the Cumberland American Little League team, delivered an inspiring postgame speech to his players, telling the team, "You've given me the most precious moment of my athletic and coaching career." <http://bit.ly/1rT16K6>
- **Aug. 23:** In his speech, "I See Something," Sri Lankan **Dananjaya Hettiarachchi** inspired the audience with his story of personal growth and was crowned Toastmasters' 2014 World Championship of Public Speaking. Hettiarachchi beat 30,000 other contestants from 126 countries to win the championship. <http://bit.ly/1BmFSbf>
- **Oct. 10:** Two years after surviving a terrorist attack for advocating girls' education, 17-year-old **Malala Yousafzai** became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner. In her acceptance speech, Yousafzai vowed to continue speaking out on the importance of education, saying children around the world "should stand up for their rights" and "not wait for someone else." <http://bit.ly/1xKfXKp>

Toastmasters named the seven speeches above as the most buzzworthy of the year because they were personal, memorable and heartfelt. Whether you're talking to a small or large group of people, Toastmasters can help you generate the buzz that will engage your audience. To help prepare for your next presentation, read [Toastmasters' Public Speaking Tips](#).

About Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of meeting locations. Headquartered in Rancho Santa Margarita, California, the organization's membership exceeds 313,000 in more than 14,650 clubs in 126 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people of all backgrounds become more confident in front of an audience. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit www.toastmasters.org. Follow [@Toastmasters](#) on Twitter.

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