Using the Internet For Speech Writing

By Danie Roux (http://danieroux.com)

Introduction

The Internet is a weird, wonderful and frighteningly amazing place.

The presentation is available: http://prezi.com/doqltnvwimrc/the-internet-as-a-tool-for-delivering-a-speech

Inspiration

Keeping track of inspiration

http://evernote.com — Evernote wants to be your permanent memory. From storing photos of your favourite wine to taking clippings of content from the Internet. Evernote works well to gather ideas you see.

http://delicious.com — Tag all the URLs you visit and find interesting. With tagging, it is easy to go back and find anything that matches "toastmasters" for example.

Where to find inspiration

http://ted.com — The TED tagline is "ideas worth spreading". TED replaced TV for me.

http://www.brainpickings.org — "Brain Pickings is about curating interestingness — picking culture's collective brain for tidbits of stuff that inspires, revolutionizes, or simply makes us think. It's about innovation and authenticity and all those other things that have become fluff phrases but don't have to be."

http://sethgodin.typepad.com Seth always have something interesting to say and usually causes a train of thought to erupt.

http://www.metafilter.com — Random people post things that they find interesting in a sort of related way. From chaos, some very useful nuggets of information arise.

http://www.futilitycloset.com — Describes itself as "An idler's miscellany of compendious amusements". Nothing to add to that, then.

http://www.gladwell.com/archive.html — The author of many interesting books, his writing also has the potential to make you think.

http://labs.google.com/sets — Play with this! Start with a few words and see how those words expand.

http://boingboing.net — The most popular blog. Visit it to experience the weird and wonderful world of the world wide web.

Research

http://www.wolframalpha.com — "Computation Knowledge Engine". Use this to verify/find hard data on anything. Start with the examples to get a feel for everything it can do: http://www.wolframalpha.com/examples

http://www.google.com/squared — Google's sort-of answer to WolframAlpha. Worth a look.

http://snopes.com — Urban legend buster. Use this to check that story that sounds just to good to be true.

http://en.wikipedia.org — No mention of research sites is complete without a mention of Wikipedia. It has now been mentioned.

Virtual Assistants

Get someone else to do your research for you! A striking example of how flat the world is becoming:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_assistant
https://getfriday.com
http://www.brickworkindia.com/virtual-assistant

Creating

Writing the speech

http://typewith.me — Collaborative typing. Quickly start a document, email someone the link and they will be typing with you in real time! Very useful to flesh out a speech with a trusted mentor/colleague.

http://en.wikiquote.org — Make sure that quote you have in mind was really by the person you thought it was.

http://rhetoric.byu.edu — We owe a debt to the Greeks for the rhetoric they developed. Sadly, we seem to ignore thousands of years of knowledge when constructing a speech. Brush up at this stellar resource.

Images

Licensing of images are a problem. You can not grab and use any random image from the Internet.

Creative Commons is a license that allows content producers to explicitly allow usage of their works. Search for those works here: http://search.creativecommons.org

Tools

http://prezi.com — Different from normal presentations, fun to work with.

http://docs.google.com — Provides PowerPoint like functionality.

Presentation sharing

http://www.slideshare.net — Share your presentation with the world.

http://dropbox.com — Easily and conveniently share files with other people and between your phone/PC/Mac.

Other useful resources

http://sixminutes.dlugan.com — Extensive blog by a fellow Toastmaster. First stop for anything you want to learn about.

http://www.motivational-inspirational-corner.com — Motivational jump-start.

http://www.speakernetnews.com — Speaker community.