

## 2009 Outline for Classification Talks

Each new Rotarian is asked to give a "classification talk" after they have been in Rotary for 1 - 6 months. A "classification" describes the principal activity of the company or business with which a Rotarian is connected. For example, a police officer could be classified as "law enforcement", a school principal as "public education". The reason for classifications is to ensure a well-balanced club with members of many vocations.

One of Rotary's four avenues of service is "vocational service", whereby we honor and respect our individual contributions to our community through our vocations. New members are given an opportunity to share their vocation by giving a classification talk. It is also a great chance for other members to get to know the new person. It shouldn't be a big chore because you should already know all the answers!

**Time:** 5 to 20 minutes - Your personal story can be elaborate or short.

To help you get started, you might want to include some or all of this information (whatever you are comfortable sharing):

1. State your name, your classification, where you currently work, and what you do there.
2. Give a brief history of yourself. This can include where you were born, where you live or lived, childhood interests and family statistics, people that had an influence on you, major life events such as military service or travel, and information about your family (spouse, children, siblings, pets etc).
3. Talk about your work history, training and education. This can include why you chose your profession (or perhaps why it chose you).
4. If desired, you can share your present hobbies, interests, values and beliefs. This could include when and why you joined Rotary, what you hope to gain from it, and what you feel you can contribute. It should also include who sponsored you, and why you chose to join THIS particular Rotary Club.
5. Relax and enjoy!

*You do not have to answer all questions above; they are intended to give you a possible idea or outline of what to say if you need help getting started.*

*The talk is not mean to embarrass you, but to let us get to know you as you want us to.*

*You are not expected to "come off" as a professional speaker. Most of us are not.*

*If you have something special to show us, you can bring it in.*