



## Rotary Classification Talk

The classification talk doesn't have to be the dread of new members. This piece customized from an unknown Rotarian tells how classification talks are a mainstay of Rotary and help members build better relationships with each other.

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. In addition, this is an opportunity to tell your fellow members a bit more about You! Sharing some tidbits about your background, a personal quirk, funny story, or meaningful life experience are all possibilities – your story is unique! And we want to learn more about you.

The following is a rough guideline for giving a classification talk:

1. State your name, where you currently work, and what you do there.
2. Give a brief history of yourself. This can include where you were born, childhood interests and family statistics, people that had an influence on you, major life events such as military service or travel.
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 why you joined Rotary, what you hope to gain from it, and what you feel you can contribute. What are you passionate about?
5. Finally, the best part, it should take no more than 5 minutes and plan on time for questions! Maybe think “4 minutes & 4 questions”. This is a great opportunity to share information about yourself. Relax and enjoy!