



The Wedding Toast

You have been asked to give a toast at the wedding of your best friend/sibling/cousin. You have likely known this person your entire life and are both excited celebrate and sincerely happy for him/her.

You will help create the person she/he is marrying – his or her personality, traits, history, family, everything, so you know them well and can honor this person’s past as well as their future with your friend/family member.

You will need to figure out how to give a good toast, one that compliments them both, includes a story, and contains some humor and some seriousness.

The point of a wedding toast is to let your friend know how happy you are for him or her, and how much you like the person they are about to wed. You need to let your friend know that you value your history together (after all, you have been good friends a long, long time), that you validate their relationship with their bride/groom, and that you wish the couple well in the future.

1st step: Map ideas

1. Choose who you will be toasting. Choose a close friend or relative who you know well and who you may likely toast in the future.
2. Come up with as many things as you can about this person and **IMAGINE** the unknown things. Some things will have to be made up. Include these kind of things:
 - What words best describe his/her personality?
 - Where they grew up.
 - What he/she did well in during school, and what he/she hated.
 - What kinds of things he/she did and now do for fun (team sports, playing music, skateboarding, skiing, dancing, shopping, hiking ...)
 - A big adventure you’ve had with this person or something stupid/funny/crazy you two did while you were younger. This is a great place to add humor to your speech. Use lots of details – build on your storytelling skills!
 - Is this person an extroverted, outgoing person, or more of an introspective, quiet one? What kind of person did they think they would marry? What did you think?
 - What his/her job is now.
 - What his/her house was like, and what it’s like now.
3. Choose a bride/groom. Mix-and-match details from the ideas we come up with in class. Include details such as:
 - This person’s character and personality, hobbies, background, etc.
 - A story about how the couple met and/or their first date.
 - How you knew that this was the “real thing”; what makes this relationship different/better/special compared to others.
 - How this person compliments your friend/family member perfectly.
 - What the couple wants for their future (think hobbies they share, kids, jobs, or other future goals).

2nd Step: Outline your toast

- Use the outline below to guide the main points on your notecards.
- Include key words or phrases only on your notecards.
- Try to have both a little bit of humor and a little bit of sincerity. Add a smile in with a heartfelt, serious message. Make sure your speech is 3-5 minutes long.

3rd Step: Rehearse!

-  You will have to have note cards with you, ready to turn in after your wedding toast is finished.
- We will be sitting at a long table. You'll need to tap a glass with a fork, or something, to get everyone's attention, and hold your glass as you talk. Keep this in mind as you rehearse in terms of the placement of your notecards.

Outline

I. In the introduction:

- A. A creative story/hook/quote
- B. Your name
- C. Your friend/family member's name
- D. How you know your friend/family member

II. Background between you and friend/family member:

- A.
- B.

III. Bring in new wife/husband

- A.
- B.

IV. Well wishes and hopes for future together

- A.
- B.

V. Final thoughts

- A. Connect back to your opening line or end with a thought that ties the toast together
- B. "To _____ and _____, may your future be bright together!"
(or something like that)

Check out the rubric on my webpage for scoring details!