

# Pathways Paths and Brief Project Descriptions

Toastmasters' new Pathways program combines the best of the CC and CL books with the "choose your own path" format and activities of the advanced books. Navigate the projects and your progress in the online Base Camp.

## CHOOSE A PATH

Think of a path like a college major. The point is not to major in *everything*, but to choose a major that will benefit you, and to aim for completion. After that, you can start a new path, and there are plenty from which to choose. Work on one path at a time (unless you are in multiple clubs). Even Toastmasters' highest designation, the DTM, only requires completing 2 paths.

<b>DL</b> Dynamic Leadership	<b>EC</b> Effective Coaching	<b>IP</b> Innovative Planning	<b>LD</b> Leadership Development	<b>MS</b> Motivational Strategies
<b>PI</b> Persuasive Influence	<b>PM</b> Presentation Mastery	<b>SR</b> Strategic Relationships	<b>TC</b> Team Collaboration	<b>VC</b> Visionary Communication

### Choose this path to learn . . .

All paths focus on public speaking and leadership, and all have a variety of electives to choose from, but here are the skills and activities that make each path unique.

**DL Dynamic Leadership** - Negotiate the best outcome, manage change, and take on a leadership role.

**EC Effective Coaching** - Help a group reach consensus, coach and develop others, and lead a project with a team.

**IP Innovative Planning** - Connect with your audience, present a proposal, manage projects, and lead a project with a team.

**LD Leadership Development** - Plan and implement a project, manage time, lead a team, and coordinate your own event.

**MS Motivational Strategies** - Motivate others, understand emotional intelligence, practice active listening, and organize a team-building event.

**PI Persuasive Influence** - Practice active listening, handle conflict resolution, lead in difficult situations, and lead a project with a team.

**PM Presentation Mastery** - Work on body language, speak persuasively, manage a difficult audience, and give a keynote speech.

**SR Strategic Relationships** - Build connections and network, understand diversity, handle public relations, and lead an organization in a volunteer capacity.

**TC Team Collaboration** - Motivate others, practice active listening, collaborate with a team, and take on a leadership role.

**VC Visionary Communication** - Develop a communication plan, communicate change, identify your vision, and create a plan to implement your vision.

### 5 levels in a path

Each level has 2-3 projects of increasing skill.

### 14 projects to complete a path

That includes about 15-16 prepared speeches and about 4 medium-to-large leadership activities, parts of which you can complete outside Toastmasters.

### What's in a project?

A project could include a **speech** (sometimes two), a **leadership activity**, a **resource or worksheet** to help you organize and document, a **short quiz**, or **any combination of these things**. Most include an **evaluation form** and **quick self-assessment**. Navigate through each project online, or print it out if you prefer.\* Speeches are 5-7 minutes unless otherwise stated (see project descriptions).

\*I recommend *not* ordering printed books from Toastmasters, as not all paths and projects are available that way. Just print the PDF if you prefer paper. You will print your speech evaluation form either way.

### What are the speech topics?

Like the old program, some speeches have a defined topic, such as "Understanding Your Communication Style." You can find ways to be creative and interesting with these!

Other speeches allow you more **freedom in choosing a topic**, such as "Inspire Your Audience" or "Effective Body Language." **These are in blue.**

See the following pages for speech topics by path and level.

Compiled by Kerin Tate for Plaza Toastmasters, Kansas City, MO, 1/9/2018, [kerin\\_tate@outlook.com](mailto:kerin_tate@outlook.com)

# LEVEL ONE: Mastering Fundamentals

## 3 projects = 4 speeches + evaluator role

Speeches are 5-7 minutes unless otherwise stated. Blue = Allows more freedom in your speech topic.

Projects 1, 2, and 3 are the same in all paths.

- 1. Ice Breaker** - Give a 4-6 min. speech on any topic (typically something about yourself) to introduce yourself to the club.
- 2. Evaluation and Feedback** - Give a speech about anything. Give a second speech later (same or new) incorporating the feedback from the first speech. Then do the Speech Evaluator role.
- 3. Researching and Presenting** - Give a speech about anything you want to research.  
Additional materials: Research worksheet, Speech Outline worksheet

# LEVEL TWO: Learning Your Style

## 3 projects = 3 speeches

Speeches are 5-7 minutes unless otherwise stated. Blue = Allows more freedom in your speech topic.

Project 1 is the same in all paths.

- 1. Introduction to Toastmasters Mentoring** - Give a speech about learning from any mentor in your life.

Projects 2 and 3 are unique to your path. Descriptions below table.

<b>DL</b> <b>2. Understanding Your Leadership Style</b> <b>3. Understanding Your Communication Style</b>	<b>EC</b> <b>2. Understanding Your Leadership Style</b> <b>3. Understanding Your Communication Style</b>	<b>IP</b> <b>2. Understanding Your Leadership Style</b> <b>3. Connect with Your Audience</b>	<b>LD</b> <b>2. Understanding Your Leadership Style</b> <b>3. Managing Time</b>	<b>MS</b> <b>2. Understanding Your Communication Style</b> <b>3. Active Listening</b>
<b>PI</b> <b>2. Understanding Your Leadership Style</b> <b>3. Active Listening</b>	<b>PM</b> <b>2. Understanding Your Communication Style</b> <b>3. Effective Body Language</b>	<b>SR</b> <b>2. Understanding Your Leadership Style</b> <b>3. Cross-Cultural Understanding</b>	<b>TC</b> <b>2. Understanding Your Leadership Style</b> <b>3. Active Listening</b>	<b>VC</b> <b>2. Understanding Your Leadership Style</b> <b>3. Understanding Your Communication Style</b>

**Active Listening** - Be Table Topics master. Comment on each speaker. (No additional speech required.)

**Connect with Your Audience** - Give a speech on something unfamiliar to the audience. Observe audience reaction and adapt it as you go.

**Cross-Cultural Understanding** - Give a speech on cultures you identify with and associated stereotypes. Use the resource to help you.

Additional materials: Defining Your Cultural Identity resource

**Effective Body Language** - Give a speech with movement and gestures. Practice on video and seek feedback from a mentor or reviewer beforehand. (If no video device, can use mirror.)

**Managing Time** - Give any speech. As you prepare, log your time spent on tasks and submit Project Completion Form to VPE.

Additional materials: Time and Task log, Project Completion Form

**Understanding Your Communication Style** - Identify your communication style. Give a speech about your style or others you have encountered.

Additional materials: Discover Your Communication Style questionnaire

**Understanding Your Leadership Style** - Identify your leadership style. Give a speech about your style or others you have encountered.

Additional materials: Discover Your Leadership Style questionnaire

# LEVEL THREE: Increasing Knowledge

3 projects = 3 speeches. Some include short to medium-sized activities.

Speeches are 5-7 min. unless otherwise stated. Blue = Allows more freedom in your speech topic.

**Project 1** is unique to your path. Speeches are 5-7 minutes.

<p><b>DL</b></p> <p><b>Negotiate the Best Outcome</b></p> <p>Give a speech about a negotiation you've done or will do.</p> <p>+ Negotiation Goal Setting Resource</p>	<p><b>EC</b></p> <p><b>Reaching Consensus</b></p> <p>Lead a <b>20-min.</b> group consensus discussion with <b>2-3 min.</b> closing statement. If discussion done outside TM, give a <b>5-7 min.</b> speech about it at TM meeting.</p> <p>Project Completion Form</p>	<p><b>IP</b></p> <p><b>Present a Proposal</b></p> <p>Write a proposal to improve anything—personal, professional, or club. Present it in your speech.</p> <p>Write a Proposal Resource</p>	<p><b>LD</b></p> <p><b>Planning and Implementing</b></p> <p>Create and implement a plan for a small-scale project—personal, professional, or club. Your choice of speech or 2-3 min. report.</p> <p>Project Plan Resource, Event Planning worksheet, Project Completion Form</p>	<p><b>MS</b></p> <p><b>Understanding Emotional Intelligence</b></p> <p>Keep a journal about your emotions for 2 weeks. Give a speech about the impact of tracking them.</p> <p>Project Completion Form</p>
<p><b>PI</b></p> <p><b>Understanding Conflict Resolution</b></p> <p>Do the online video activity. Give a speech on how you manage conflict and how you could improve.</p> <p>+ Conflict Resolution video activity</p>	<p><b>PM</b></p> <p><b>Persuasive Speaking</b></p> <p>Give a persuasive speech on any topic.</p> <p>Persuasive Speech Outline worksheet</p>	<p><b>SR</b></p> <p><b>Make Connections Through Networking</b></p> <p>Attend a networking event. Give a speech about it.</p> <p>Prepare to Network Resource, Project Completion Form</p>	<p><b>TC</b></p> <p><b>Successful Collaboration</b></p> <p>Work with a small team on a small-scale project (i.e., planning a TM meeting). Give a speech about it.</p> <p>Team Building Activities resource</p>	<p><b>VC</b></p> <p><b>Develop a Communication Plan</b></p> <p>Create a communication plan, real or hypothetical. Present it in a speech.</p> <p>Write a Communication Plan resource</p>

**Projects 2 and 3** are electives. Choose two. Speeches are 5-7 minutes unless otherwise stated.

**Active Listening\*** - Be Table Topics master. Comment on each speaker. (No additional speech required.)

**Connect with Storytelling** - Give a speech that tells a story, real or fictional.

**Connect with Your Audience\*** - Give a speech on something unfamiliar to the audience. Observe audience reaction and adapt it as you go.

**Creating Effective Visual Aids** - Give a speech using visual aids.

**Deliver Social Speeches** - Give two different 3-4 minute social speeches at separate meetings.

Additional materials: Social Speech Basics resource

**Effective Body Language\*** - Give a speech with movement and gestures. Practice on video and seek feedback beforehand. (If no video device, can use mirror.)

**Focus on the Positive** - For two weeks, keep a daily record of your positive and negative feelings, efforts, and gratitude. Your choice of a speech or 2-3 minute report.

Additional materials: Project Completion Form

**Inspire Your Audience** - Give an inspirational speech.

**Make Connections Through Networking\*** - Attend a networking event. Give a speech about it.

Additional materials: Prepare to Network Resource, Project Completion Form

**Prepare for an Interview** - Answer questions in a 5-7 minute role-play interview at a club meeting. Can be job interview or expert interview. Prep your "interviewer" using the included resource.

Additional materials: Identifying Your Skills worksheet, Interviewer Instructions Resource

**Using Descriptive Language** - Give a speech using descriptive language.

**Using Presentation Software** - Give a speech using presentation slides.

**Understanding Vocal Variety** - Give a speech using vocal variety.

\*Not available as elective if required in your path.

# LEVEL FOUR: Building Skills

2 projects = 2-3 speeches + 2 medium to large leadership activities

Many of the leadership activities may be completed for work or other organizations. Blue = Allows more freedom in your speech topic.

**Project 1** is unique to your path. Speeches are **5-7 minutes** unless otherwise stated.

<p><b>DL</b></p> <p><b>Manage Change</b></p> <p>Create a change management plan—real or hypothetical, past or present. Present it in a speech.</p> <p>+ Prepare for Change worksheet, Write a Communic. Plan resource</p>	<p><b>EC</b></p> <p><b>Improvement Through Positive Coaching</b></p> <p>Coach someone through a project. Give a speech about it.</p> <p>-</p>	<p><b>IP</b></p> <p><b>Manage Projects Successfully</b></p> <p>Lead a team of 3-4 people on a project. Present your plan in a <b>2-3 min.</b> speech. Give a <b>5-7 min.</b> speech about the experience.</p> <p>Project Plan resource</p>	<p><b>LD</b></p> <p><b>Leading Your Team</b></p> <p>Lead a team of 2-4 people on a project—club, work, or community. Give a speech about it.</p> <p>-</p>	<p><b>MS</b></p> <p><b>Motivate Others</b></p> <p>Lead a team of 3-4 TM members on a project to help your club. Have a club officer do a 360° evaluation of your leadership. Give a speech about the experience.</p> <p>Team Building Activities resource, 360° Evaluation resource</p>
<p><b>PI</b></p> <p><b>Leading in Difficult Situations</b></p> <p>Create a project plan—real or hypothetical. Present it in a speech. Let the audience offer potential disruptions to your plan, and offer impromptu solutions. <b>15-20 min. total time.</b></p> <p>+ Project Plan resource, Project Plan Overview resource, Plan Disruption Ideas resource (hand out to club members)</p>	<p><b>PM</b></p> <p><b>Managing a Difficult Audience</b></p> <p>Give any speech, even one you've already given. Audience members will role play being difficult and disruptive during your speech. Respond appropriately. Total time <b>12-15 min.</b></p> <p>Role Play Assignments resource (give to Toastmaster and VPE)</p>	<p><b>SR</b></p> <p><b>Public Relations Strategies</b></p> <p>Create a public relations plan—real or hypothetical. Present your plan in a speech.</p> <p>-</p>	<p><b>TC</b></p> <p><b>Motivate Others</b></p> <p><i>See description under MS</i></p> <p>-</p>	<p><b>VC</b></p> <p><b>Communicate Change</b></p> <p>Create a plan to communicate a change—real or hypothetical. Present it in a speech.</p> <p>Prepare for Change worksheet, Write a Communication Plan resource</p>

**Project 2** is an elective. Choose one. All speeches are 5-7 minutes unless otherwise stated.

**Create a Podcast** - Record 60 minutes of podcast content. Play a 5-10 minute segment for your club, and introduce it with a 2-3 minute speech. Total time is **7-13 minutes**.

**Building a Social Media Presence** - Start a new social media presence or enhance a current one—personal or professional—as long as you have a goal in mind. Give a speech about it.

Additional materials: Project Completion Form

**Write a Compelling Blog** - Post at least 8 blog posts in a month. You may choose to have club members evaluate it. Give a speech about it.

Additional materials: Blog Evaluation Form, Project Completion Form

**Manage Online Meetings** - Conduct a **20-25 minute online meeting or webinar** with visual aids for fellow Toastmasters.

Additional materials: Online Meeting Agenda resource, Online Meeting Basics resource

**Manage Projects Successfully\*** - *See description under IP, above.*

**Managing a Difficult Audience\*** - *See description under PM, above.*

**Public Relations Strategies\*** - *See description under SR, above.*

**Question-and-Answer Session** - Give a speech on something you are knowledgeable about, followed by a Q&A session. Total time **15-20 min.**

\*Not available as elective if required in your path.

# LEVEL FIVE: Demonstrating Expertise

3 projects = 3-4 speeches (length varies) + 2 medium to large leadership activities

Many of the leadership activities can be completed at work or for other organizations. *Blue = Allows more freedom in your speech topic.*

**Project 1** is unique to your path. Speeches are 5-7 minutes unless otherwise stated.

<p><b>DL</b></p> <p><b>Lead in Any Situation</b></p> <p>Take on a leadership role for at least 6 months. Have your peers do a 360° evaluation of your leadership. Give an <b>8-10 min.</b> speech about your experience.</p> <p>+ 360° Evaluation resource</p>	<p><b>EC</b></p> <p><b>High Performance Leadership</b></p> <p>Lead a team of at least four. Form a guidance committee and meet at least 5x. Present your plan in a speech. Give a second speech about your experience.</p> <p>Guidance Committee Intro, Meeting Agenda resource, Project Plan Overview, Project Plan resource, Vision Plan resource, Event Planning worksheet, 360° Evaluation resource</p>	<p><b>IP</b></p> <p><b>High Performance Leadership</b></p> <p><i>See description under EC</i></p>	<p><b>LD</b></p> <p><b>Manage Successful Events</b></p> <p>Plan, coordinate, and implement an event. Give a speech about it.</p> <p>Event planning worksheet, Write a Communications Plan resource</p>	<p><b>MS</b></p> <p><b>Team Building</b></p> <p>Lead a small team to host a team-building event (can be outside TM). Present your plan in a <b>2-3 minute</b> report. Give a second speech (<b>5-7 min.</b>) about your experience.</p> <p>Team Building Activities resource, Team Building Event Evaluation resource</p>
<p><b>PI</b></p> <p><b>High Performance Leadership</b></p> <p><i>See description under EC</i></p> <p>+ </p>	<p><b>PM</b></p> <p><b>Prepare to Speak Professionally</b></p> <p>Give an <b>18-22 minute</b> keynote-style speech. Visual aids are optional.</p> <p>Speech outline worksheet</p>	<p><b>SR</b></p> <p><b>Leading in Your Volunteer Organization</b></p> <p>Serve in a leadership role in TM or volunteer organization at least 6 months. Have your peers do a 360° evaluation of your leadership. Create a succession plan for transition of your duties. Give a speech about your experience.</p> <p>360° Evaluation resource, Succession Plan resource</p>	<p><b>TC</b></p> <p><b>Lead in Any Situation</b></p> <p><i>See description under DL</i></p>	<p><b>VC</b></p> <p><b>Develop Your Vision</b></p> <p>Develop a vision and present it in a speech. Present your plan in a second speech.</p> <p>Idea Map worksheet, Goal Setting worksheet, Goal Task List, Vision Plan resource, Project Completion Form</p>

**Project 2** is an elective. Choose one.

**Ethical Leadership** - Define your ethical framework. Then plan and moderate a **20-40 min. panel discussion with Q&A session** about ethics. (*See Moderate a Panel Discussion project for more info.*)

Additional materials: Ethical Framework resource.

**High Performance Leadership\*** - *See description under EC, above.*

**Leading in Your Volunteer Organization\*** - *See description under SR.*

**Prepare to Speak Professionally\*** - *See description under PM, above.*

**Lessons Learned** - Lead a lessons learned meeting for a team you have done a project with, or are doing. Document the results. Ask team members to do a 360° evaluation of your leadership. Give a speech about the experience.

Additional materials: 360° Evaluation resource, Lessons Learned Response log, Metrics log

**Moderate a Panel Discussion** - Plan and moderate a **20-40 min. panel discussion** on any topic (can be outside TM).

Additional materials: Panelist Basics resource, Project Completion Form

**Project 3** is the same in all paths.

**Reflect on Your Path** - Give a **10-12 minute** speech about your experience completing your path.

# AT A GLANCE: All Pathways paths and projects on one sheet

Choose a path  
(14 projects)

<b>DL</b> Dynamic Leadership	<b>EC</b> Effective Coaching	<b>IP</b> Innovative Planning	<b>LD</b> Leadership Development	<b>MS</b> Motivational Strategies
<b>PI</b> Persuasive Influence	<b>PM</b> Presentation Mastery	<b>SR</b> Strategic Relationships	<b>TC</b> Team Collaboration	<b>VC</b> Visionary Communication

Follow the levels in order, using Base Camp online to navigate through projects. Most projects include a 5-7 minute speech. Some higher-level projects include a medium-to-large leadership activity, parts of which you can complete outside TM. **Blue = allows more freedom in your speech topic.**

Compiled by Kerin Tate for Plaza Toastmasters, Kansas City, Missouri, 1/9/2018, [kerin\\_tate@outlook.com](mailto:kerin_tate@outlook.com)

## LEVEL ONE projects (3)

1. Ice Breaker
2. Evaluation and Feedback (includes 2 speeches + evaluator role)
3. Researching and Presenting

## LEVEL TWO projects (3)

1. Introduction to Toastmasters Mentoring

<b>DL</b> 2. Understanding Your Leadership Style 3. Understanding Your Communication Style	<b>EC</b> 2. Understanding Your Leadership Style 3. Understanding Your Communication Style	<b>IP</b> 2. Understanding Your Leadership Style 3. <b>Connect with Your Audience</b>	<b>LD</b> 2. Understanding Your Leadership Style 3. <b>Managing Time</b>	<b>MS</b> 2. Understanding Your Communication Style 3. Active Listening
<b>PI</b> 2. Understanding Your Leadership Style 3. Active Listening	<b>PM</b> 2. Understanding Your Communication Style 3. <b>Effective Body Language</b>	<b>SR</b> 2. Understanding Your Leadership Style 3. Cross-Cultural Understanding	<b>TC</b> 2. Understanding Your Leadership Style 3. Active Listening	<b>VC</b> 2. Understanding Your Leadership Style 3. Understanding Your Communication Style

## LEVEL THREE projects (3)

<b>DL</b> 1. Negotiate the Best Outcome	<b>EC</b> 1. Reaching Consensus	<b>IP</b> 1. Present a Proposal	<b>LD</b> 1. Planning and Implementing	<b>MS</b> 1. Understanding Emotional Intelligence
<b>PI</b> 1. Understanding Conflict Resolution	<b>PM</b> 1. <b>Persuasive Speaking</b>	<b>SR</b> 1. Make Connections Through Networking	<b>TC</b> 1. Successful Collaboration	<b>VC</b> 1. Develop a Communication Plan

- 2 and 3. Choose 2 electives:

Active Listening, **Connect with Storytelling**, **Connect with Your Audience**, **Creating Effective Visual Aids**, **Deliver Social Speeches**, **Effective Body Language**, Focus on the Positive, **Inspire Your Audience**, Make Connections Through Networking, Prepare for an Interview, **Using Descriptive Language**, **Using Presentation Software**, **Understanding Vocal Variety**

## LEVEL FOUR projects (2)

<b>DL</b> 1. Manage Change	<b>EC</b> 1. Improvement Through Positive Coaching	<b>IP</b> 1. Manage Projects Successfully	<b>LD</b> 1. Leading Your Team	<b>MS</b> 1. Motivate Others
<b>PI</b> 1. Leading in Difficult Situations	<b>PM</b> 1. Managing a Difficult Audience	<b>SR</b> 1. Public Relations Strategies	<b>TC</b> 1. Motivate Others	<b>VC</b> 1. Communicate Change

2. Choose 1 elective:

**Create a Podcast**, Building a Social Media Presence, **Write a Compelling Blog**, Manage Online Meetings, Manage Projects Successfully, Managing a Difficult Audience, Public Relations Strategies, **Question-and-Answer Session**

## LEVEL FIVE projects (3)

<b>DL</b> 1. Lead in Any Situation	<b>EC</b> 1. High Performance Leadership	<b>IP</b> 1. High Performance Leadership	<b>LD</b> 1. Manage Successful Events	<b>MS</b> 1. Team Building
<b>PI</b> 1. High Performance Leadership	<b>PM</b> 1. <b>Prepare to Speak Professionally</b>	<b>SR</b> 1. Leading in Your Volunteer Organization	<b>TC</b> 1. Lead in Any Situation	<b>VC</b> 1. Develop Your Vision

2. Choose 1 elective:

Ethical Leadership, High Performance Leadership, Leading in Your Volunteer Organization, **Prepare to Speak Professionally**, Lessons Learned, Moderate a Panel Discussion.

3. Reflect on Your Path