
SPEECH MAKING: MOTHER'S DAY CUSTOMS

LEVEL

Intermediate - Advanced

GOALS

Learn about one of the biggest public holidays in the U.S.

Develop public speaking skills.

MATERIALS

- *Mother's Day & Father's Day Reading PDF*
- *Mother's Day: Reading Worksheet*
- Speech Template

PREPARATION

- 1) Download *Mother's Day & Father's Day Reading PDF*. At least one copy per group is needed, preferably one copy per student.
- 2) Download *Mother's Day: Reading Worksheet*. At least one copy is needed per group, preferably one copy per student.
- 3) Download the Speech Template, or create your own version. At least one copy is needed per group, preferably one copy per student.
- 4) Download one Speech Template: Example Speech as a reference if needed.

PROCEDURES

- 1) Begin the lesson by activating student schema. Ask the class what they know about Mother's Day.
- 2) Give each student (or group) a copy of *Mother's Day & Father's Day Reading PDF* and the *Mother's Day: Reading Worksheet*.
- 3) Have the students read the article about Mother's Day on the second page of the *Mother's Day & Father's Day Reading PDF*.
- 4) As a class, read the questions on the *Mother's Day: Reading Worksheet* and, in groups, have the students write their answers. Clarify the **bold** words for student understanding.
- 5) Review the answers to the worksheet as a class. The answers can be used as the key points in the students' Mother's Day speeches.
- 6) In their groups, have students discuss the Mother's Day holiday history and traditions. Alternatively, students can brainstorm what makes their mothers special **OR** how mothers are celebrated in their country and speak on those topics as well.
- 7) Using the brainstormed ideas, have the students fill out their Mother's Day Speech Template.
- 8) In small groups have the students practice their speeches with each other.
- 9) Have each student present their Mother's Day speech to the class.
- 10) As a follow-up you can assign students to write their speech in paragraph form.

ADAPT IT TO YOUR CLASS

- If the activity is too long, have students write their speeches for homework and present them during the following class.

- Adapt the language difficulty for students with lower English levels by writing a single speech as a group that can then be practiced in pairs.

MOTHER'S DAY: READING WORKSHEET



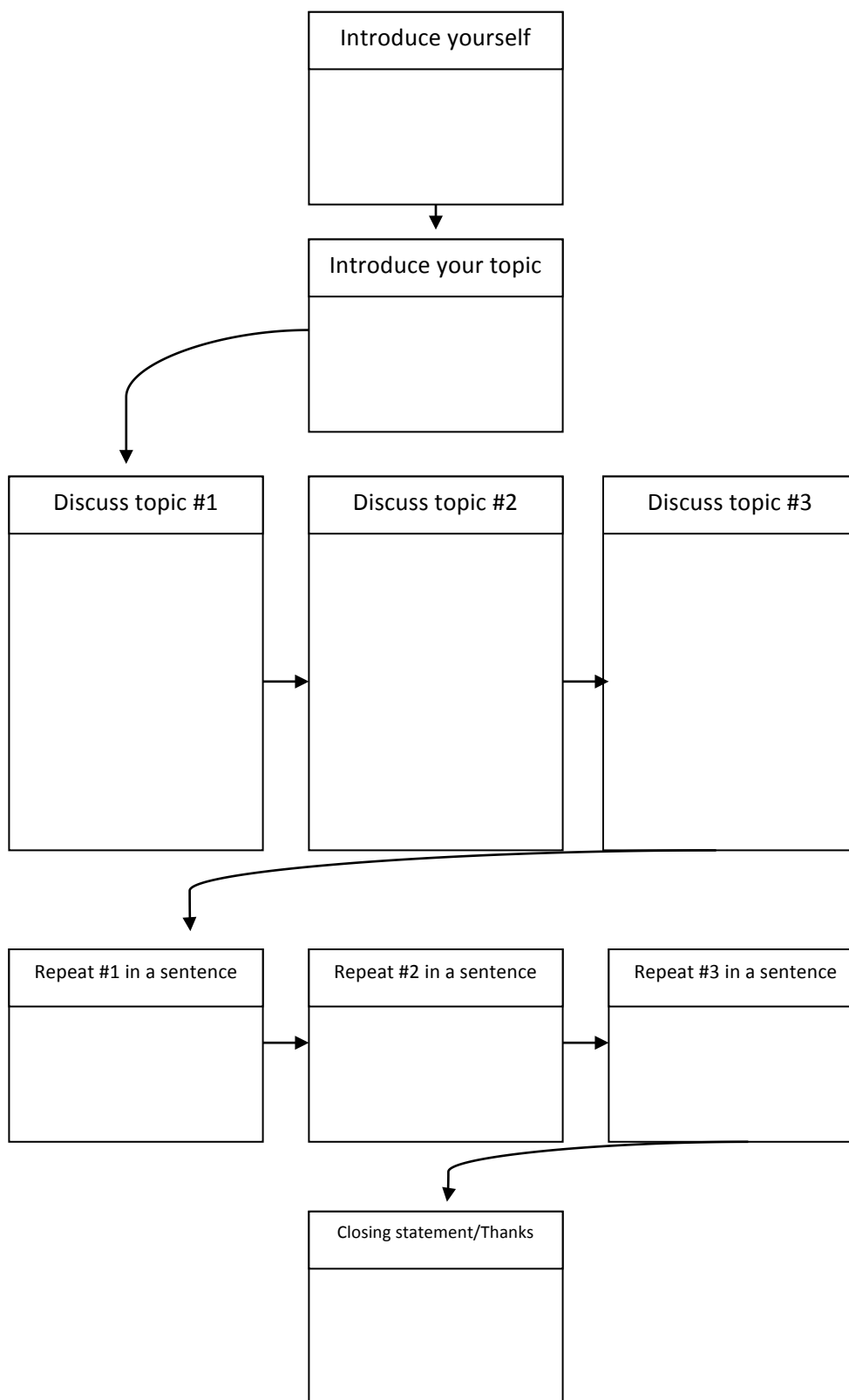
- Which country was the first to **establish** a day to recognize mothers?
- When was Mother's Day first introduced in the United States?
- Who was **responsible** for first introducing the idea of Mother's Day in the United States?
- How did Anna Jarvis make Mother's Day an official holiday in the United States?
- Which state in the United States was the first state to **proclaim** Mother's Day as a holiday?
- On which day is Mother's Day officially **recognized** in the United States?
- In what year was Mother's Day first celebrated as a national holiday?
- What do American children do for their mother's on Mother's Day?
- Which flower is **associated** with Mother's Day?
- Mother's Day is the busiest day of the year for which businesses in the United States? Why?

MOTHER'S DAY: READING WORKSHEET – ANSWER KEY



- Which country was one of the first to **establish** a day to recognize mothers? – Great Britain was one of the first countries to establish a day to recognize mothers.
- When was Mother's Day first introduced in the United States? – It was introduced in 1872.
- Who was **responsible** for first introducing the idea of Mother's Day in the United States? – Julia Ward Howe was responsible for first introducing Mother's Day.
- How did Anna Jarvis make Mother's Day an official holiday in the United States? – She began writing to members of Congress in the U.S. government.
- Which state in the United States was the first state to **proclaim** Mother's Day as a holiday? – West Virginia was the first state to proclaim Mother's Day as a holiday.
- On which day is Mother's Day officially **recognized** in the United States? – It is recognized on the second Sunday of May.
- In what year was Mother's Day first celebrated as a national holiday? – It was first celebrated as a national holiday in 1914.
- What do American children do for their mother's on Mother's Day? – Children serve their mothers breakfast and give gifts they have made themselves or bought.
- Which flower is **associated** with Mother's Day? – Red carnations are the flower associated with Mother's Day.
- Mother's Day is the busiest day of the year for which businesses in the United States? Why? – It is the busiest day for restaurants because Americans take their moms out to eat.

SPEECH TEMPLATE



SPEECH TEMPLATE: EXAMPLE SPEECH

