

Teens in the USA: Missouri – Cullen – Getting into gear



Please prepare a 1-minute presentation about one of the topics given below. The questions and tips on this worksheet should help you to research your topic. On the following sheets you will find tips on how to structure and present your talk.

Possible topics for your presentation:

- Driving at the age of 15: Teenagers in Missouri are allowed to drive a car earlier than teenagers in Germany. What are the requirements to get a so-called “teen drivers permit“ in Missouri? And what does a driving test in Germany look like? What could be the advantages and disadvantages of 15-year-old teenagers driving a car?
- School in Missouri: What does a typical day at a high school in Missouri look like? Why do they have subjects like “Gardening“? Think about the school system in Germany compared to the American high school system, what differences do you notice?
- Tornado warning: Cullen and his classmates have to stay inside the school building because of a tornado warning. Can you describe briefly how tornadoes work? What causes tornadoes? What happened in Joplin, Missouri in May 2011? Do you know any tornado safety tips?

Some information sources for your internet research:

- Missouri Department of Revenue Teen Drivers / BMVBS (abbreviation for: Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Bau und Stadtentwicklung): Begleitetes Fahren ab 17
- Missouri High Schools / Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- NOAA NSSL (US National Severe Storms Laboratory) / EPA (US Environmental Protection Agency) / MO gov (State of Missouri)
- possible buzzwords: Joplin tornado Tornado basics / FAQ Tornadoes



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*This list helps you to prepare your 1-minute presentation.
On the right-hand side you can find some useful expressions
that will help you to structure your speech.*

- **Prepare the talk:**
 - Write down your text (introduction – main part – ending) into the large section of the following worksheet.
 - Use the language support to structure your text.
 - Underline key words.
 - Write your key words on the cue card in the small section of the worksheet.
 - You have got 8–10 minutes to write your text.
 - You have got 3–5 minutes to write down your key words.
- **Practise your talk**
 - Practise your presentation on your own by using only your cue card.
 - Stand up, walk around and use buzzreading to practise.
 - You have got 5 minutes to practise your talk.
- **Present your talk**
 - Deliver the talk to the whole class using your cues only.
 - You have got one minute.
- **How to present**
 - Tell your listeners what your presentation is about.
 - Speak freely and clearly, use only your cue cards.

language support

Introduction:

- My topic is .../The topic of my presentation is about ...
- I'd like to talk to you about/ I'm going to talk about ...
- I am going to talk about the following points: ...

Main part:

- First I would like to .../I'd like to start with .../First of all, ...
- Let's begin with .../So let's start with ...
- The next point is ...
- Another important point is ...
- My final point refers to the idea ...

Ending:

- Finally, I'd like to say/to conclude ...
- And this brings me to the end of my talk/presentation.
- Thank you (very much) for listening.
- Thank you (very much) for your attention.

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Evaluate the presentation. Tick the field which you think applies best to the presentation. Use a different colour for each candidate. After each presentation, give a feedback. What was good? What could be improved?

	☺	☹	☹
Content	You gave all the important information on the topic.	You gave some of the important information on the topic.	Use different sources to collect more information.
Structure	You structured your talk in an excellent way./I really like the way you presented your information.	You structured your talk well./I like the way you presented your information.	Use a DIN A5 sheet and draw 3 frames for “Introduction“, “Main part“ and “End“. Fill them with your information.
	In your introduction, you briefly said what you were going to talk about.	In your introduction, you did not say what you were going to talk about.	Begin with an interesting fact or a personal story to catch your audiences’ attention.
	You used all the language support to structure your talk.	You used some of the phrases to structure your talk.	Try also to follow the “1-3-Rule“: 1 idea and 3 supporting arguments.
Presenta-tion	You spoke clearly and not too fast./You spoke fluently.	You nearly spoke clearly and not too fast./You nearly spoke fluently.	Try to calm down before you start presenting. Practice difficult words at home.
	You talked freely all the time.	You did not speak freely all the time.	Hold your presentation in front of a good friend beforehand.
	You looked at your audience all the time./ You kept/established eye-contact all the time.	You did not look at your audience all the time./You did not keep/establish eye-contact all the time.	If you feel insecure, keep eye-contact with a friend first. Let your eyes wander around the classroom.
	Your presentation was within the given time limit.	Your presentation was nearly within the given time limit.	Practice your presentation at home and ask someone to check the time.
	You did not look at your notes all the time.	You sometimes looked at your notes.	Try to become an expert and memorize your structure.
	You were relaxed/self-confident all the time.	You were sometimes relaxed/self-confident.	Don’t worry: Practice makes perfect!