Brainstorming

1. **The Point:** Begin with the end in mind. What is the main idea? What is your goal/hope in giving this club talk? Why do you love Jesus? What do you want the students to know, think, or do? Is it good news? Write it down in 1 sentence. (Ex. Jesus is _______.)

2. **Jesus' Story** What story or stories about Jesus are examples for the reasons you love him, or have been changed by him, etc.? If it has changed you and are excited about it, you can’t mess it up! (Note: You can start with step 2 then do step 1. But never start writing a club talk with the intro material).

3. **My Story/Our Story** Brainstorm any personal stories, illustrations, modern day cultural examples, news stories, videos, pictures, questions etc. that might fit with this talk. Write them all down.

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Talk Outline

3. **My Story/Our Story**
   - My Story: First share a personal story about your life (or someone you know)
   - Our Story: This is really the story of humanity. Bring kids into it – its their story too!

2. **Jesus' Story**
   - This topic is not just my story, or our story, but Jesus story..
   - Read or recite your story from the Bible. Make the story come alive through story telling, interpreting and using everyday terms.
   - This story should be an example of who Jesus is – not what to do to be a better Christian.
   - What do you love about this story? What is it about Jesus that is utterly amazing?
   - What connections or similarities can you draw in from your intro story or illustration?

1. **The Point:**
   - What’s the point? What does this story of Jesus mean for us?
   - Ask the question “So what?” at this point. Who cares? Why does any of this matter? What is it you want encourage them to know/be/do? Is what you’re currently doing working?
   - Think again about what you wrote down for step one. Make sure your audience knows your 1 MAIN point by the end (not 3 things). You can often create a “tagline” that has to do with your main point that you can repeat multiple times though out the talk. This can often be your final sentence in your club talk. “If you hear nothing else tonight, hear this...”.

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Writing a Club Talk
EOYoungLife Leadership
Other Young Life Club Talk Tips, Hints and Suggestions

• Pray. Before. During. After.

• Prepare in advance. Start working on it early, not the day before. I know we are not all great public speakers, but the story of Jesus IS THE GREATEST story in the history of the world! Let’s at work hard at telling his story well. Think about how many hours you have spent doing painful, awkward contact work, hanging out with kids and praying for them by name. Here is your chance to explicitly tell them why you care so much about them. Remember: “It’s a sin to bore a kid with the gospel.”

• As you are working on it, keep brainstorming any and all possibilities. Write them down on a piece of paper/whiteboard. What are the possible stories, illustrations, pictures, videos, news articles, music, etc.? Have your story be a real life example, not something you made up about yourself to be funny. Be authentic. Use humor appropriately. Then through a process of elimination, see what fits, what doesn’t and then determine the best order for the flow of your talk.

• If an illustration doesn’t fit this time, don’t force it. Write it down and save it for another time. You can keep a file for any future stories or illustration ideas.

• Practice. Out loud. In front of a mirror. For a team leader/teammate, roommate, etc. Time it to make sure it is the right length!

• Have your final outline be tucked in your Bible on 1 piece of paper. A simple outline on a 3 x 5 notecard could be sufficient. Don’t have 3 or 4 pages of notes in a journal that you are flipping through when giving your talk. It can be distracting and easily lose your place

• Use a Bible. Have it with you. Let kids see you use it. I don’t recommend a phone Bible.

• Know how you’re going to end it.

• Think about the language you use. Remove any “Christianese” from your vocabulary (sanctification, fellowship, etc.) Refer to him as Jesus. Assume your audience is hearing the story of Jesus for the first time. Never say, “you all know this story...”

• Talk TO the kids, not AT them.

• Keep it simple. Introduce them to your friend Jesus. Think of your talk as more of an invitation to come check out Jesus and why you think he’s awesome more than a challenge of you need to live like this. Remember it’s about him, not about you.

• Feel free to have it be interactive. Engage the audience. Ask questions. Talk in groups.

• Quit before they do. (10-15 minutes). If their butts are sore, their brains are checked out.

• Afterwards, ask a team leader for helpful feedback. What is 1 thing you did well? What is 1 thing you could do better/work on for next time?

• Have fun! Be excited about it! You get to tell kids about the greatest person (Jesus) in the history of the world!! He is their only hope!