

Moscow Free Speakers Club



Dear Toastmasters!

1. Our 510th meeting, which took place on the May 5th, was an important one. The meeting was dedicated to one of the most important days in the history of our country and perhaps the world. Nearly 66 years ago the Allies - USSR, Great Britain and USA – have finally defeated Nazi Germany. While the help from the USA and Great Britain was substantial, it was mostly our grandparents' blood and unimaginably hard work in terrible conditions that secured the future of the World. Luckily, our club is several generations deep, and we have members who can share their memories of the time, so we don't forget how important it was.

Apart from interesting and vivid life-stories of the War time, sometimes humorous, we also learned about our new member Anna Pomelova through her quality ice-breaker, listened to Mary Beketova's fourth project about her personal victory day as a member of AIESEC ruling committee, and watched Ilya Volin's attempt to deliver his ninth project in which he tried to teach us about the importance of personal measures.

And last but not least, we have the upcoming Executive Committee Elections! Be sure to come to the next meeting to give us your vote: it's very important and will define what our club is going to be like.

2. The pace of modern life can weaken and even erase our memories of the Victory day and its importance. **Tatyana Smirnova, the Invocation Master**, urged us to strive to remember about the War, its happy ending, and the price our grandparents paid for it. It's important to regularly refresh our memories about the time, so we

Quote of this issue:

“The direct use of force is such a poor solution to any problem: it is generally employed only by small children and large nations”.

- - David Friedman

can be grateful to our heroes. As a famous philosopher George Santayana said, “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

3. Some people in our club shine as speakers, some demonstrate brilliant analytical abilities, yet others are



natural improvisators and thinkers on their feet. **Evgenia Maseeva, the Toastmaster**, has several talents; one of them, at which she's probably the best in the club, is being the Toastmaster of a meeting (Evgenia is the best Toastmaster of 2010).

She kept up to her standards this meeting as well, telling us a story about the War and Victory day, smoothly weaving in the participants along the way. This time, besides a usual program, Evgenia found a room for Innessa Goldovskaya with her remarkable funny real-life story about soviet soldiers running through Berlin and looking for the Reichstag to mount a soviet banner on.

4. People who fought in the War had to be incredibly valiant. But extreme situations are not the only times when a person can demonstrate this quality. Many members and newcomers in our club have to be valiant to overcome their nervousness and to speak before the audience, especially when they aren't experienced

Moscow Free Speakers Club



enough yet. It turned out that **Alexander Borisenko, the Word Master**, presenting the word “valiant” was experienced enough to be calm about his role.

5. History is abstract, and it's difficult to feel the atmosphere of the past when you read about the dates, numbers of casualties and political moves. Personal stories help to make history come to life.

Tamila Mamedova, the Joke Master, shared a personal funny story about her valiant grandmother working as a nurse during the War. Look for this story at the end of the Newsletter.

6. Where were you born? What kind of child you were? And what type of person you are now?

Who have been the most important people in your life?

Anna Pomelova in her **Ice-breaker "Swiss cheese version of my life"** told us that she was born in Ukraine and was a very calm child and a teachers' pet. Her most favorite class in school was...



English (which is not surprising, as she's very good at it). And apart her mother, her tutor in English was the most influential person in her childhood and school years. Anna told us she was very grateful to them and to her husband Alexey

Kuzmenko as well who himself a newcomer was the initiator to come to our club !

Anna was surprisingly relaxed and emotionally open on the stage, flavoring her project with good humor that made us smile and laugh at times. Congratulations with an excellent ice-breaker, Anna! We hope you will be active in our club, which you now are a part of.

7. Whereas Anna Pomelova brought a spirit of



emotionality, humor and gentleness to the stage, **Mary Beketova's 4th project "My victory day"** expressed power and confidence.

What have been your victories and successes? Mary, who is a very active member of our club, told us

that one of her personal favorites was her term in AIESEC ruling committee. AIESEC is a very large international organization for young people, students of universities mostly, which strives to help its members to develop leadership qualities.

Mary was very impressed when she first visited a conference of AIESEC and decided that she wanted to join it and grew to the highest positions within it. Indeed she worked hard and did manage to be elected to the ruling committee of AIESEC. But this remarkable achievement wasn't her victory day. What Mary has been proud of is that despite initial problems – two out of the four members of the committee, one of them the President, didn't approve her as a member – she managed to work through the conflicts and reestablish relationships with the members of the committee.

Congratulations with a good, as it was expected to be, project, Mary! We're happy that as strong and goal-oriented person as you is a member of our club!



8. Thinking on your feet is difficult. Imagine that people



are watching you when you're on the stage and you have 5-7 minutes to fill. **Ilya Volin** with his 9th project "Measure" found himself in such a position. He was offered the opportunity two days before the meeting but didn't manage to prepare

properly. It's worth noting that although Ilya's project wasn't nearly as good as those of Mary and Anna, he still showed respectable abilities to think on his feet and remain comparatively calm under fire.

Take more time the next time, Ilya, and good luck with your next projects, including delivering the ninth one, as you, hopefully, chose to do.

9. **Denis Shevchuk** opened the second part of the meeting as a **General Evaluator**. He was



constructive, clear and precise in his evaluation of all role-takers of the meeting. Not only Denis goes closer to his CC award, he also keeps pace with practicing his leadership skills and tracking the CL manual.

We hope you are brave and ready enough to compete with Denis on this way!

Evaluations:

10. **Syahnaz Akhtar Mat Ali, CC** gave his **Personal evaluation** of the Ice Breaker presented by Anna Pomelova. The distinctive speech's characteristics were the followings:

- + smooth speech flow;
- + interesting topic;
- + thorough preparation;
- + good eye contact;
- + natural body language;
- + clear speech structure.

Anna was advised not to use notes in her future projects.

11. **Valentin Novikov, CL**, this time a **Personal Evaluator** of Mary Beketova's speech, mentioned the following:

- + smooth transitions from one idea to another;
- + clearness of pronunciation;
- + good words and idioms usage.

Valentin advised Mary to develop her body language, as this time her gestures were quite monotonous.

12. **Valeria Kholodkova, CC, AL-B**, gave her strong **evaluation** of the speech delivered by Ilya Volin. She mentioned:

- + interactive beginning;
- + smiling during delivering the project;
- + voice power.

The following points Valeria marked as needing to be done in different way:

- 9th project has to be well prepared, not improvised on a stage;
- content should be chosen properly;
- structure has to be strong and clear;
- audience's reaction should be taken into consideration and controlled

Moscow Free Speakers Club



12. The **Table Topic Discussion** led by **Ekaterina Sidorenko** brought us to the moments of the Great Patriotic War. And as we do have few generations of club members, everyone could share the feeling of his own war. Nick Sapozhnikov, CC, Irina Chernyaga, CC, Natalia Sherstneva, CC, and Inessa Goldovskaya told us what they keep in their memory about it – gloomy bomb shelters, unceasing starvation, broken toys, exhausted



soldiers... Young members of the club talked about the traditions of celebrating the Victory Day in their cities and what they remember about this war from school. Four tragic years left indelible trace in our history but as we remember sorrow of the war, we remember the people dancing at the Red Square on May 9, 1945, and the happiness of this day.

Congratulations with the Victory Day!

Our next meeting is on May, 19th!

See you soon!

Joke of the Day:

I want to tell you a story about my grandmother. My grandmother was a doctor, and during the Second World War she worked in a hospital. Once, on New Year's Eve, she was on duty. There were not many wounded soldiers

but two patients were in coma in a hopeless condition. One of them died, and my grandmother was invited to examine the body. She signed necessary papers and called for two hospital attendants to take the body to mortuary. The mortuary was in courtyard.

As it was New Year's night the attendants drank a little.

In two minutes they ran crying to the room where my grandmother was sitting.

- Dead man is screaming!!!

- It's impossible, return him back.

- We are afraid.

And they all ran to the courtyard.

By Tamila Mamedova

Points:

Evgenia Maseeva <i>(Toastmaster)</i>	4.6
Tatyana Smirnova <i>(Invocation Master)</i>	3.8
Alexander Borisenko <i>(Word Master)</i>	3.4
Tamila Mamedova <i>(Joke Master)</i>	3.7
Anna Pomelova <i>(Speaker 1)</i>	4.4
Maria Beketova <i>(Speaker 2)</i>	4.0
Ilya Volin <i>(Speaker3)</i>	2.1
Syahnaz Akhtar Mat Ali, CC <i>(Personal Evaluator 1)</i>	4.2
Valentin Novikov, CL <i>(Personal Evaluator 2)</i>	4.6
Valeria Kholodkova, CC, AL-B <i>(Personal Evaluator 3)</i>	5.0
Denis Shevchuk <i>(General Evaluator)</i>	3.8
Ekaterina Sidorenko <i>(Table Topics Master)</i>	3.8
Meeting as a whole	4.1