

## TOASTMASTERS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE 2004 (CALGARY)

By Sylvia Hui

On Saturday January 24, I attended the TLI Conference. It was an inspiring and informative experience. I highly recommend attending these conferences, especially for recent members of Toastmasters.

There were various sessions to attend. It was so hard to choose because all seemed so interesting, but eventually I chose Finding a Topic for your next Speech, Evaluation Boot Camp, and How to Prepare a Speech.

The first session was helpful. I am personally having trouble finding topics for my speeches. The presenter suggested we should not reject ideas right away because we think they may not work. We should still jot them down. Who knows, maybe that topic will work for a speech in the future. We should try to tailor the speech to the topic, and not the topic to the speech.

An interesting point that was brought up in this session was that maybe one reason why some people have trouble finding a topic for a speech is because every speech they do, they are looking for the "perfect" topic to make the "perfect" speech. Maybe I'm trying to do the perfect speech?

The Evaluation Boot Camp was an interesting session. We discussed what makes a good evaluator and came up with some qualities. We also saw an interesting video clip of Anthony!

The last session I attended was informative. The presenter walked us through how to write a speech from the beginning to the end. We didn't actually write it out, but at the end of the session we had an outline in which to work from.

Overall, I learned something from each session and had a great time. There was a guest speaker, who did an inspiring speech. Again, if you have the time and money, I would highly recommend attending the Conferences.

Also, if anyone is interested in taking a look at the handouts I got from each session, or if you are interested in just talking about the TLI Conference, don't hesitate to contact me.

---

Sylvia Hui ([sylviahui@hotmail.com](mailto:sylviahui@hotmail.com)) is the Sergeant at Arms for SAITSayers, 2003-2004.