

Wolverhampton Speakers Club

Using Tablet Computers In Public Speaking

Why Use a Tablet?

With the increasing use of tablet computers – iPad, Android devices etc. – they now give us an alternative means of writing and using our notes.

A tablet is small and inconspicuous and often only needs a subtle 'swipe' to change from one screen to another if you use it to display your speaking notes. If you are using a lectern, a tablet will sit there nicely out of sight.



How, then, do we use a tablet for writing and displaying notes?

Using Standard Software

Any of the typical word processing or note-taking apps available for the tablet can be used for writing notes and displaying them to you during a speech (e.g. Pages, Notability etc. for iPad).

You could simply have your text written in a word processor or text editor, at a suitable size for you to read, and simply swipe up or down to move around your notes.

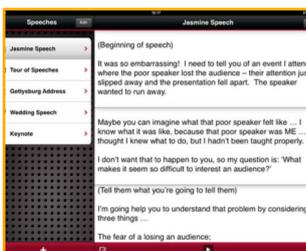
There are also mind-mapping apps available should you favour this method of using notes (e.g. SimpleMind+ for iPad and Android).

Using Specialist Public Speaking Software

There are a number of apps made specially for public speaking, especially for iPad, although there are also Android versions as well. These apps either simulate traditional methods or provide their own slant on using notes.

Don't forget that new apps are being produced all the time so what we include here might not be all that is available.

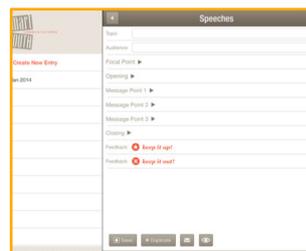
In the following pages we describe and illustrate four of these apps so that you can see how they appear. Two are for iPad only and two are for iPad and Android.



Speeches for iPad



SpeechPrep



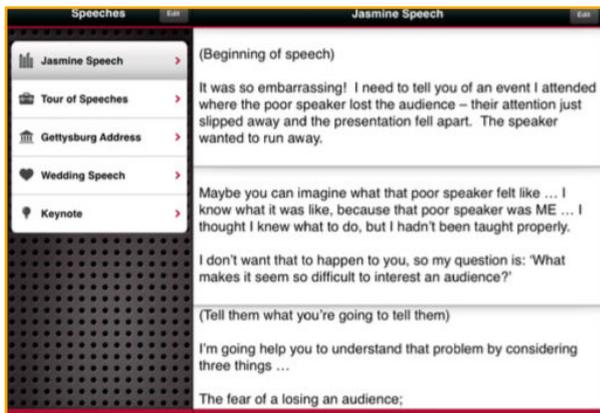
SmartMouth iPad



Prompter

'Speeches' for iPad

This app simulates the use of cards. 'Cards' may be written, imported and edited in the app and then 'played' during the speech, being navigated by swiping from one card to the next (you can also swipe backwards as well). The app allows you to specify a timing for the speech and displays an overall progress bar so that you can keep track of your timing.



This shot shows the speech being written in 'Speeches'. The horizontal lines show where the user has divided the speech into 'cards'.



This shot shows the application in use during a speech. A 'card' is displayed that can be swiped up to show the next one when ready.

'SpeechPrep' for iPad and Android

SpeechPrep also uses simulated cards but splits them into our typical speech structure of 'Introduction', 'Body' and 'Conclusion' sections. Each section can have as many cards as you wish.

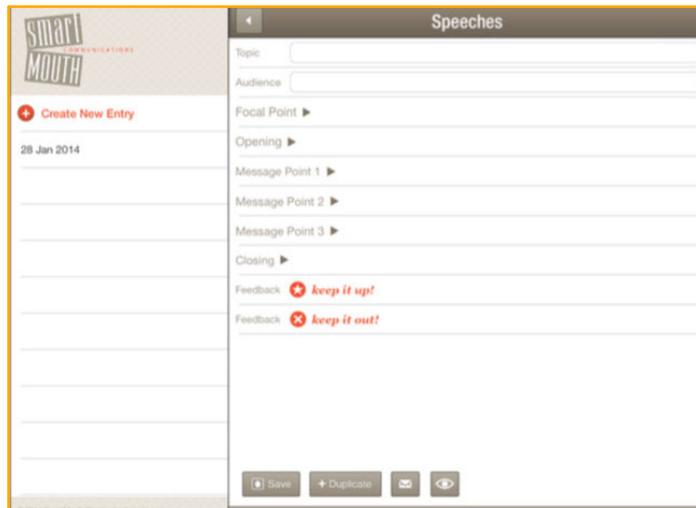
Once written you can then practise the speech and note timings, followed by a review phase. The app is meant for preparing and practising rather than for use during a speech.



'SmartMouth' for iPad

This is both a set of instructions and a speech preparation app – rather like the WSC writing frame.

Again, this is not really intended for 'live' use during a speech.

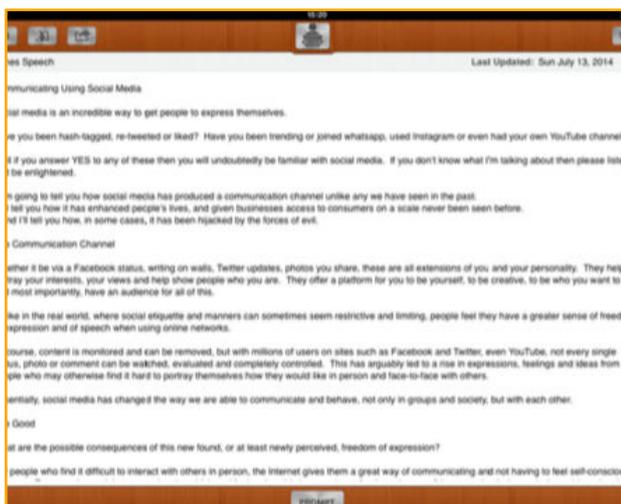


'Promptster' for iPad and Android

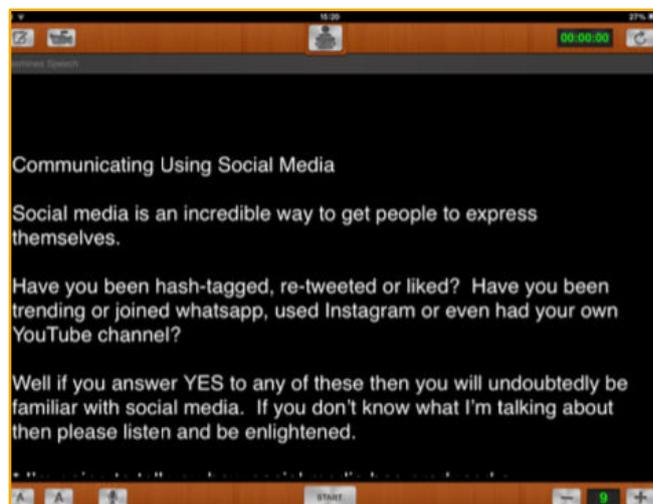
Promptster takes a different approach – **it simulates a teleprompter**. You can create your notes within the app or import a text file. This is a really sophisticated app.

For speech practice and delivery the app smoothly scrolls the text on the tablet's screen at a speed that you can determine and at a text size that you prefer. You can start or stop scrolling at any time and manually scroll to any part of the document. The app will also track elapsed time as you speak.

Additionally, you may use the built-in camera and/or microphone to record yourself and play back whilst practising your speech.



This shot shows the editing screen being used to type in or import a speech.



This shot shows the app being used on the lectern as a teleprompter.