

One Page Outline for the D'var Torah

The *d'var Torah* is normally 2-3 pages (or 600-900 words), printed and double-spaced. To help you prepare it, we've provided this outline below for you to follow if you choose.

The first two words of your *d'var Torah* should be: Shabbat Shalom!

First Paragraph:

What is the name of your portion? What book of the Torah and which specific chapters does it come from?

Provide a summary of the verses that you are reading and a summary of the most important parts of the entire Torah portion.

Second Paragraph:

What is one big idea that you find most interesting from the portion and why?

Third Paragraph:

What do some Jewish thinkers have to say about this big idea? (The additional material that we provide will help you find those answers.)

Fourth Paragraph:

What are your own thoughts about the "big idea" that you find most interesting. Do you agree with what others think? Or do you disagree?

Fifth Paragraph:

Can you make a personal connection to the big idea? Can you give an example of something that you experience in your own life that connects you to that big idea?

Sixth Paragraph:

What does this portion and/or its big idea teach you about what it means to be a b.mitzvah, a person of responsibility?

Sixth Paragraph:

Conclusion—take everything you've written and summarize it in a two to three sentence conclusion.

While you are not required to talk about your mitzvah project during the *d'var Torah*, hopefully we can connect it in a way that makes sense. Otherwise, you will have the opportunity to talk about it at a different part of the service.

The last sentence of your *d'var Torah* should be: "Please join with me in singing *She-he-che-yanu*." (You, Cantor Kohlbrenner and I will lead the chanting in Hebrew).

Then you conclude in English: "We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, for giving us life, and sustaining us, and enabling us to celebrate this joyous and sacred occasion."