

How to Write Your D'var Torah

Congregation Beth Ohr

Sharing your ideas about your Torah portion and about this moment in your life is a great opportunity to be a teacher. Here are some basic steps to consider:

Good luck, have fun and most importantly, make it personal!

1. Read through your summary with Rabbi Bernstein. If you find something interesting, look it up directly in the Torah (www.mechon-mamre.org) or in hard copy at home or at shul.
2. Google your Torah portion (Parashat _____) and see what others have written. This might spark an idea.
3. Mark your ideas in the chart below. You should have the beginning of 3 different ideas by the 2nd meeting with Rabbi Bernstein.

What happened in your portion?	Question: What is troubling? What makes sense? What is interesting?	What does this teach you?	Reminds me of
1.			
2.			
3.			

Outline of a speech

Step 1: Greet everyone with “Shabbat Shalom.”

Step 2. Talk about your Torah portion and provide a short overview

Step 3. Explain or discuss something (one thing) you find interesting about your Torah portion.

Step 4. React to the message or moral or idea of your Torah portion. What do you think?

Step 5. Provide example of how this applies to your life.

Step 6. Recap your teaching briefly.

Step 7. Thank parents, siblings, teachers, friends, etc...

Step 8. End with Shabbat Shalom.