# Using Braille as a Presentation Tool: Public Speaking

## The Braillists Foundation

<https://braillists.org>

## Writing a Script

* A script can be useful when delivering a speech as it helps you stay on track.
* How you write your script, or whether you write a script, is up to you.
* When writing a script, it can be useful to write it using a refreshable braille display, as it is easier to edit.
* Before you deliver your speech, it is useful to run through it several times and make necessary edits.
* Once your script is finalised, you may want to emboss it or write it out in hard copy braille, so that you have a backup.

## Using Cue Cards

* Cue cards can be helpful if you don't want to present using a script but would still like to be prompted.
* You can write out key information, such as statistics that you need to remember.
* They form an overview of your speech, guiding you from one point to another.
* Cue cards are easy to produce in a low tech braille environment, as you can use a slate and stylus.
* It is helpful to put them in a small binder, or keep them together using a ring or treasury tag, otherwise it's easy to drop them and move them out of order.
* Often, sighted people will lay out their cards. As a blind person, it's easier to have them stacked, and turn them over like the pages of a book.

## Setting up the Space

* It's important to think about how you'll get from your seat to the presenting area.
* If possible, arrive in advance and take some time to familiarise yourself with the space you'll be working in.
* Find out if there is a table, or lectern, that you can rest your display or notes on.
* If there is, consider the height and whether you can comfortable reach it to read.
* It's worth considering that a lectern may have a raised edge, which can push against the thumb keys of a braille display.
* Find out where the microphone will be in relation to your face.
* Test the microphone setup, to see if you can hear your display over it. Some displays have a louder refresh sound, so this may be a consideration.
* Ask how the chairs are set up in the room, so you know how much of the space the audience are occupying. This will help you engage with them when speaking.