

HOW TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

- **To start off:**
 - I've been asked to talk about...
 - Over the next few minutes, I'll address the issue/question of...
 - As for my monologue, I'll tackle the question/issue/area of...
 - Concerning my monologue, I'll start off by saying that...
 - My speech will deal with the issue of whether or not (+ to infinitive)...

- **To express personal judgment:**
 - From my viewpoint/standpoint...
 - If you ask me...
 - The way I see it...
 - From my experience...
 - From what I can gather...
 - I don't know about you but as for me...

- **To express agreement:**
 - I couldn't agree more with you on that.
 - You can say that again.
 - I also go along those lines.
 - I see eye to eye with you on that.
 - You and I are on the same page.
 - You are absolutely right.
 - Very much so.

- **To express disagreement:**
 - I partly agree with you, nonetheless, I also believe that...
 - I agree up to a point because, in my book, I regard that...
 - I must confess I agree to some extent due to the fact that...
 - You may be right, but you will also agree with me that...
 - If you were in my shoes, I'm pretty sure you would agree with me.
 - From my viewpoint, that may be a sweeping comment because...

- **To express aspects in common:**
 - We share a lot of common ground on that.
 - We seem to be on the same wavelength.
 - I can see we go for the same stuff.
 - I realized we are into the same pastimes.
 - We appear to be fond of the same hobbies.

- **To express ambivalence:**
 - I've got mixed feelings regarding this subject.

- To be honest, I don't have a strong opinion about it.
 - I regard it's six of one and half a dozen of the other (idiom: *la responsabilidad es tanto de unos como de otros*).
 - The question is not a black and white one. There are plenty of edges...
 - The matter isn't clear-cut.
- **To express adamant refusal:**
 - That's clearly out of the question.
 - You can't be talking seriously...
 - I'm afraid to tell you that no way.
 - Under no circumstance **am I** going to accept so (subject-verb inversion).
 - That's utterly unfair.
 - I dare say that I'm not standing for that.
- **To ask questions:**
 - Don't you agree?
 - What are your feelings about...?
 - What do you reckon?
 - How about you?
- **To express a big amount:**
 - A great deal of...
 - Loads of...
 - Plenty of...
- **To express surprise:**
 - Surely not!
 - Are you serious!
 - You must be kidding/joking!
 - I can't believe my eyes!
 - That sounds great!
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- **To empathize:**
 - If I were you, I would... /If I had been you, I would have (past pple.)...
 - It doesn't appear to be so...
 - There's no point in...
 - It's no use (+ v-ing)...
 - There's no need to be...
- **To conclude:**
 - All in all...
 - In short...
 - To put it in a nutshell...
 - To cut a long story short...