

OAS Skill Module

Seek inspiration from the “world’s greatest thinkers”

The world is full of talented and dynamic people. Some you may meet during your time at UT; others you can only spend sleepless nights fantasizing about the day you can discuss root causes of poverty in Africa with over coffee.

TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) is a conference held every year for the intellectual elite to gather and spend roughly 18 minutes giving the talk of their life. Speakers come from a range of disciplines and topics. Whether it is the brilliance of their ideas or the clichés of their speech, one can find anything from the inspiring to the completely dull. TED Talks are posted online where you can eavesdrop on some thought provoking ideas.

Part I

- Watch three TED Talks of your choice at <http://www.ted.com/>. You can keep the genre the same or select three at random. Find something that interests you.
- Write a brief response detailing:
 - Which talks you selected and your reaction (agree, disagree, thought it was hilarious, worst thing you’ve ever seen)
 - What drew you to the speakers you chose?
 - Reflect upon any commonalities or personality traits between the speakers
 - Which talk was the most interesting and what made it so?

Part II

- The speakers at TED discuss their passions and topics they know incredibly well. Write a page long “mini TED Talk” about something passionate to you that you know a lot about. Go about it with the same freedom as the speakers at TED. Make it funny, make it factual, make it thought provoking, or share your great idea for humanity.
- Your written “mini TED Talk” should be about a page long. You can make it your entire talk or just the introductory paragraph.
- Please don’t be boring.