

Course Description

Speech is a one-semester course introducing students to the basic concepts of communication. It aims to make students not only better communicators, but better rhetoricians; people capable of using sound and ethical rhetoric and of analyzing other forms of communication for subtle usage of logos, ethos and pathos.

Instructional Materials

Projects in Speech Communication Perfection Learning.

Ted Talks

Famous speeches from film and history

Course Outline

Unit 1: Communication Basics

- 1. The Fundamentals of Communication**
- 2. Oral Language**
- 3. Nonverbal Communication**
- 4. Listening**
- 5. Influences on Communication**

Unit 2: Interpersonal Communication

- 6. Effective Interpersonal Communication Strategies**
- 7. Interpersonal Listening**
- 8. Solving Problems and Managing Conflict**
- 9. Interviews**

Unit 3: Public Speaking

- 10. Preparing to Speak**
- 11. Researching Your Subject**
- 12. Organizing Your Speech**
- 13. Preparing Supporting Materials**
- 14. Using Language Effectively**
- 15. Presenting Your Speech**

Unit 4: Types of Presentations

- 16. The Speech to Inform**
- 17. The Speech to Persuade**
- 18. Speeches for Special Occasions**
- 19. Oral Interpretation**

Speeches (Subject to Change)

- 1. Introduction Speech:** A short “Life in a bag” speech (1-2 minutes) to help break the ice and foster community
- 2. Instant Replay (20 points):** As in a sports broadcast, students will prepare and present a short scene demonstrating the communication process in small groups. They will perform it through once without interruption. Then, they will do a replay with commentary, stopping at planned moments.
- 3. “Who’s on First?”** Using Abbot and Costello’s famous sketch as a model, students will develop a short sketch in pairs demonstrating a conversation in which one party is continually misunderstood by the other.
- 4. Silent Movie:** Students will create a short silent-movie scene to demonstrate non-verbal communication. No vocal utterances (talking or otherwise) or use of text will be permitted. Therefore, facial expressions, hand gestures, and body movements are required to convey meaning. Use of a “silent movie soundtrack” (ie. music without lyrics) is okay. This assignment may be performed live or video recorded.
- 5. Know Your Audience:** In pairs, students will present two 1-minute conversations on the same topic, first as high school peers and then as a high school student with a grandparent, to demonstrate how we alter our speech depending on our audience.
- 6. Poetry Out Loud:** Students will select a piece of poetry (long enough that it takes at least 45 seconds to recite) to memorize and perform for the class. It will be graded on memorization, poise, and vocal dynamics.
- 7. Group Presentation:** In groups of 3 or 4, students will choose from a list of topics about which to prepare a presentation. Students will be graded on how well they interact with their groups and their involvement in the actual presentation. As in professional presentations, groups will be required to use technology and visual aids to help convey information.
- 8. Advertisement:** Students will prepare and present a 3-5 minute persuasive speech in the form of a long advertisement or infomercial. It may be for a product, issue, or political campaign they must use Ethos, Logos, and Pathos.
- 9. Eulogy Speech:** Students will deliver a eulogy for a cartoon character or famous person who has died. Their goal will be to communicate through story the deceased’s passions, interests, and personality.
- 10. Award Acceptance Speech:** Students will create their own unique award and acceptance speech.
- 11. Elevator pitch:** students will present a “pitch” about themselves that will demonstrate their ability to sell themselves with confidence in 30 seconds.

Grading Policy

Late Assignments will be penalized **10% per day late**. In cases of planned absences, missed assignments are due **BEFORE you leave**.

Grade Scale

95 – 100% = A

88 – 94% = B

78 – 87% = C

70 – 77% = D

0 - 69% = F

