

2017-18 Speech Communication

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Required Course Materials

- notebook with insert for handouts (or binder)
- writing utensils including highlighters

Course Focus

The focus of this course is to gain an appreciation for (through practice and performance) the importance of communicating effectively through verbal and written expression in a high school community and beyond. Speech Communication is an introductory course where you will learn to speak effectively in both formal and informal situations. You will develop insights into the structure and purpose of the basic speech process and appreciate the importance that speech plays in daily living. Skills developed include discussion, group dynamics, audience analysis, speech delivery, listening, and oral interpretation.

"Communication works for those who work at it." –John Powell

Student Learning Outcomes

Speaking assignments in this course are designed to assess student learning in the areas listed below. After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. Plan and prepare speeches that inform, persuade, entertain, demonstrate or fulfill the needs of a special occasion;
2. Use presentation aids to enhance your speeches;
3. Outline your speeches in a logical and thorough fashion;
4. Conduct meaningful research on a variety of topics;
5. Analyze your audience and design speeches to reflect your analysis;
6. Evaluate speeches based on a variety of verbal and non-verbal criteria;
7. Listen effectively, regardless of your interest in the subject matter;
8. Understand and explain the communication process.

This is your time to learn, experiment, take risks, and make lots of mistakes with communicating effectively through the various forms of speech during the course of the year. It is imperative that we create a community of trust and support. We are all in this together.... Supporting each other will make a significant difference in developing these critical skills that will be with you long after you leave high school. Push yourself. And most important, enjoy the journey.

Speech Procedures

- On the day of your presentations you are required to provide me with a typed outline and citation page (where applicable) before you speak. We will discuss the proper outline format in class. For each day late, you lose 10% points.
- Do **not** e-mail me this.
- After each speech, classmates are encouraged to ask questions of the speaker. The presenter should be prepared to reply to questions and concerns from the audience.
- During some presentations, classmates will be required to write critiques of the speaker's presentation. Remember—critiques are not all negative; it is important to make note of the positive aspects of a speaker's presentation as well.
- Please remember at all times that a speaker deserves your undivided attention. Although whispering to your friend, rummaging through your book bag, and snapping bubble gum seem relatively harmless, you will soon learn how distracting these habits can be. Please respect one another by keeping the noise level in the audience to a minimum; you will appreciate this when it's your turn.
- Additionally, do not work on homework for another class, or your own speech, while another person is delivering a presentation. Give them your undivided attention.

- Public speaking is FUN! Some of you might be frightened by the prospect of "performing" in front of a room full of people, but don't be overwhelmed. Before each speech we will review the requirements in class, preparing each of you for your speeches. The aim of this course is for you to develop your skills along the way. Following your first speech, and a variety of classroom activities, like impromptu speeches and group assignments you will develop a sense of comfort with the public speaking process. This course provides a unique opportunity to interact with your peers and share interesting ideas, issues, and thoughts that captivate you. Instead of letting this course make you nervous, try to think of it as a positive experience.

RESPECT YOURSELF. RESPECT OTHERS. RESPECT IDEAS. RESPECT EACH OTHER.

Developing speeches and presenting them can be intimidating. We will get to know everybody in this course and provide support throughout the year.

"Take advantage of every opportunity to practice your communication skills so that when important occasions arise, you will have the gift, the style, the sharpness, the clarity, and the emotions to affect other people." –Jim Rohn