

Public Speaking Course Guide

General Description

Public Speaking incorporates interpersonal communication skills, audience awareness, research and speech writing techniques. Through the course, students are introduced to public speaking as an important component of their academic, work and social lives. They develop skills as public speakers by planning, organizing, writing and delivering speeches on both self-selected and assigned topics. They learn to be fair and critical listeners, give and respond to feedback and incorporate visual and multimedia aids.

Goals

Through this course, students will learn to

- Identify components of speech communication models.
- Enhance speaking and listening skills in both large and small group situations.
- Apply principles of public speaking in planning, organizing and delivering a speech for a variety of audiences and occasions.
- Organize ideas and information in a logical outline form to meet the demands of different delivery methods.
- Deliver an appropriate, purposeful verbal message in a variety of communication settings.
- Demonstrate the expressive role of nonverbal communication in a variety of communication settings.
- Hone listening skills to become a more effective audience member.

Content

Throughout the semester, students complete a number of speech units (listed below). The final order for the units is determined by student needs, time constraints, and availability of resources.

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| • Object/Introduction | • Interview/Award |
| • Impromptu | • Pet Peeve (Expository) |
| • Demonstration | • Persuasive/Problem-Solution |
| • Children's Book Reading (Delivery) | • Sales Pitch |

Assessment Activities

A number of components are included in the final grade, including, but not limited to, participation in whole class and small group discussion activities, peer listening activities, outlines and other preparatory activities, final speeches, and textbook reading, response activities and quizzes. Students receive clear guidelines, expectations and rubrics as assignments are given.

Evaluation and Grading

Assignments are graded with a point system with the following categories making up the final grade:

90% - Assignments & Projects - speeches, outlines and other class activities

10% - Citizenship & Participation – active, respectful listening during peer listening & final speech sessions and effective use of class time during work days. You must be present in class to earn points for listening during speeches. Make up assignments will only be offered at the end of the grading period. Be in class for speeches!

I am happy to discuss individual assignment grades. However, class time will only be used to discuss general grading criteria and expectations. To discuss a grade, please make an appointment.

Student Expectations

In addition to the guidelines established by the School Code of Conduct and other school policies (including attendance and tardies), please keep the following student expectations in mind.

- **Be honest.** Own your work (practice academic integrity). Own your choices.
- **Be engaged.** Be present in class, focused on the work we are doing. Listen. Use appropriate language and volume, particularly when working in small groups. Keep cell phones out of sight unless it is individual work time, or they are needed for the class activity.
- **Be responsible.** Be on time to class, bringing all of the supplies that you need to participate. Complete assignments on time, and ask for help when you get stuck. Keep the classroom clean, and properly dispose of any garbage. Be careful with school technology, and follow guidelines for technology responsible use.
- **Be empathetic.** Support and encourage your classmates, while being mindful of the fact that giving speeches in front of an audience is challenging and nerve wracking for most of us. Be an active (attentive) listener.

Academic Integrity:

Demonstrating academic integrity is paramount to students' success in this course. Any form of cheating, including plagiarism, is an attempt by a student to show a level of skill that is not a true reflection of their own. Plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without properly acknowledging one's source) of any type will not be tolerated. "Someone else's words or ideas" may come from a professional source, an electronic resource or another student. Only those assignments labeled as group or partner work may be completed cooperatively. Violations of academic integrity also include any unauthorized use or discussion of tests and answer keys or other methods of obtaining answers.

Attendance and Late & Make-Up Work

All assignments, including speeches, are due on the due date indicated unless you have an excused absence, or a 504 plan or IEP AND have made prior arrangements. If you have an excused absence, you are expected to submit the work on the day you return. The time limit for making up daily homework due to an excused absence is equal to the number of days missed. Work, including speech presentations, will not be accepted if an absence is unexcused. If you are absent on the day that your name is drawn to speak (for speeches where an assigned date is not expressly posted), you will be responsible for speaking first on the day of your return. Late work is accepted up to 5 school days after the original due date for a 10% point deduction. Work more than 5 school days late may be accepted, but only after a teacher conference has been held outside of class time to determine a make up plan.

Students are encouraged to use provided unit overviews and course webpage to stay up to date on class activities and due dates: <http://issaquahhighkdean.weebly.com/>.