



Public Speaking

Instructor: Stephanie C. Huckabee

Location: Room 226

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Academic Enrichment: First half of Power Hour

Length of Course: Semester

Number of Credits: 1/2

Type: Elective

S.C. Uniform Grading Scale:

A= 90-100 B= 80-89 C= 70-79

D= 60-69 F= Below 60

Course Description:

Public Speaking is a course structured to provide students with the necessary skills for speaking in public or to an audience. Students will concentrate on developing the physical, vocal, organizational, and performance skills required to communicate successfully whether addressing a large crowd in an auditorium or a small group in a job interview. Volume, pace, delivery, enunciation, and various other facets of the oratorical process will be studied. Students will work on posture, eye contact, and body language as well as effective utilization of visual aids during message delivery.

Texts

Google Classroom and www.HuckabeeClassroom.com will be utilized for most material.

Glencoe Speech. Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2009.

We will use a classroom set of textbooks. Students who need additional time with a textbook may check one out or attend Enrichment to complete work.

Select speeches - print, video, and websites such as www.americanrhetoric.com

Expectations of Students

Students should bring a charged Chromebook to every class as we will use it almost every single class. Students in Public Speaking are expected to go above and beyond normal measures to be supportive of one another during speeches. This means that students are to listen attentively to one another. If a student is not giving a classmate his or her undivided attention, points will be deducted from the grade of the distracted student. Phones and other devices will be placed in book bags for speeches and assessments.

This class is a lab experience. It is where students can take calculated risks as they find their own public speaking voices. The environment will remain positive and growth-oriented. Students are given much liberty in choosing speech topics, though if a topic is deemed inappropriate for this particular audience, students will need to find a more suitable topic to present.

Sample Instructional Topics: Communicating responsibly ~ Building confidence ~ Listening skills ~ Nonverbal communication ~ Interviewing ~ Researching, organizing, and writing speeches ~ Effective delivery of speeches ~ The art of persuasion ~ Extemporaneous and impromptu speaking

Supplies

Students will primarily use Chromebooks. Index cards are suggested for presenting speeches.

Notes on Speeches:

- Speech dates will be shared in advance so there is no excuse for not being ready even if a student has been absent.
- If a student is absent the day of a speech, he or she should be prepared to do the speech upon returning to class. In the case of extended absences or illnesses, extensions may be made at instructor discretion.
- Due to time limitations, students may have to present a speech during the class meeting following an original due date. In this situation, students will be moved to the next class meeting.
- EVERYONE MUST give his/her speeches in front of the class/audience. To do so would essentially defeat the purpose of this course.

Evaluation:

Students are awarded points for both minor assignments (quizzes, daily impromptu topic responses, notes, etc.) and major assignments (speech research and delivery, tests, etc.). Point values are determined by the amount of content mastery and effort involved in the assignment. Students will also evaluate one another occasionally for feedback purposes. The tone of this feedback is to be both positive and constructive.

***Special note on absences for semester-long classes**

State law allows only 3 unexcused absences from a semester-long class. If you exceed 3 unexcused absences, credit for the class will be denied regardless of the grade that is earned.

When a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to get the work that was missed and to turn in any assignments that may have been collected during the absence.