

Introduction to Speech

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students are introduced to public speaking, build confidence, and utilize modern technology to create and present a variety of presentations for different purposes and audiences; these can include informative presentations, persuasive presentations, special occasion speeches, and others. Students view, analyze, and evaluate several examples of public speaking for technique and effectiveness, including nonverbal communication (body language) and the sound and flow of speaking. They also learn how to create, organize, and deliver presentations for a variety of audiences and purposes. Students also engage in critical thinking, practice identifying instances of faulty logic, and learn how to present arguments backed by careful research and logical thinking.

Course Competencies

Introduction to Speech	
Competency 1	Build a positive perspective of public speaking by building courage and conquering stage fright.
Sub-Topics	1. Explore one's interests and talents to begin establishing a pool of topic ideas. 2. Gain exposure to examples of professional public speaking. 3. Explore personal likes and dislikes regarding presentations as a means of learning about elements of a good presentation. 4. Develop reasonable expectations for oneself as a speaker. 5. Understand that most audiences are not hostile; they want the speaker to be successful. 6. Understand how preparation and organization of one's presentation can help build confidence - making it easier to give a presentation. 7. Explore ideal topics for which one would feel confident presenting.
Competency 2	Recognize and evaluate nonverbal communication through attentive listening and paying attention to body language.
Sub-Topics	1. Understand the importance of critical listening, and learn strategies for careful listening. 2. Understand the importance of body language in communication. 3. Know that gestures and symbols are culture-specific (their meaning varying from one culture to the next). 4. Be able to analyze and evaluate the body language of speakers.
Competency 3	Analyze the "music" of spoken language, paying attention to emphasis, volume or pitch, rhythm, repetition, and alliteration
Sub-Topics	1. Understand and evaluate the following: emphasis, volume or pitch, rhythm, repetition, and alliteration. 2. Be able to evaluate presentations for the flow and sound of the speaking.
Competency 4	Understand the importance of audience and purpose and consider audience demographics.
Sub-Topics	1. Understand and be able to identify the intended audience and purpose of a presentation. 2. Know that one can have primary, secondary, and even tertiary purposes and audiences. 3. Know that the purpose of a presentation is usually to inform, to entertain, and/or to persuade. 4. Understand that a secondary purpose can help support a primary purpose (example: an entertaining speech used to persuade). 5. Understand the importance of audience demographics (gender, culture, ethnicity, age, religion, education, economic status, occupation, etc.). 6. Be able to analyze and evaluate a presentation for its intended audience and purpose(s).

Competency 5	Recognize and avoid logical fallacies.
Sub-Topics	1. Learn about a variety of logical fallacies (faulty logic). 2. Be able to identify faulty logic in a variety of media. 3. Understand that one should avoid using faulty logic.
Competency 6	Learn about and practice the creation process for speech-making, including gathering ideas and information, developing, organizing, editing, and practicing.
Sub-Topics	1. Learn about conducting research to find information and supporting materials for one's presentation. 2. Be able to organize a presentation using an outline. 3. Understand how to enhance the flow of a presentation using transitions and careful organization. 4. Be able to include an "attention grabber" in one's presentation. 5. Be able to construct interesting and effective introductions and conclusions for one's presentations. 6. Evaluate presentations for preparation and organization.
Competency 7	Create and deliver a variety of presentations, including an informative speech, persuasive speech, and a special occasion speech.
Sub-Topics	1. Learn about key strategies for creating and delivering effective speeches to inform, persuade, and for special occasions. 2. View and evaluate examples of informative, persuasive, and special occasion speeches. 3. Create and deliver presentations for a variety of purposes and audiences. 4. Utilize modern technology for the creation and delivery of presentations.