

High School – Introduction to Speech Communication

The objectives for this class will include learning and practicing the basics of organizing and practicing presentations in front of an audience. Students will give 7-9 oral presentations throughout the year.

Why is a speech class important to our young people? Consider Jesus' apostles and their efforts to spread the Gospel. Reading through the book of Acts, we see time and time again how they preached the Word of God to different people groups, in many venues, and under a variety of circumstances. The necessity to spread the Word of God is no different today, and we must all be equipped with the tools to communicate the Message as effectively as possible. Consider Acts 14:1 - "At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed."

This is the goal for students -- to have the skills necessary to be able to speak *so effectively* as to move people toward the heart of God when the opportunity is presented. The skills practiced this year will give student the confidence to communicate simple messages before an audience.

Coursework will include:

- Understanding ethos, pathos, and logos in the context of public speaking
- Delivery practices
- Organizing oral presentations
- Using visual aids
- Communicating a message with confidence and style
- Using rhetorical devices in speeches
- Analyzing famous speeches
- Compare and contrast public speaking for different occasions

Students will practice the following speeches:

- Peer introductions
- Informative speech
- Persuasive speech
- How-To speech
- Storytelling
- Impromptu speech
- Sharing scripture thoughts

Class periods will consist of lecture, demonstration, and peer workshop in which students offer feedback to each other about their planned speeches. Throughout the year we will analyze famous speeches to study best practices in organization, stylistic devices, and communicating with an audience.

Speech evaluations will be based on the following:

- Adherence to guidelines
- Organization
- Opening
- Body
- Conclusion
- Delivery
- Personal presentation style
- Pacing and tone

The length of presentations will gradually build throughout the year, beginning with a 90-second peer introduction, and gradually increasing to a 10-minute speech. A scoring matrix is provided for each type of presentation and will be evaluated by at least two adults. Students will provide constructive feedback to one another and share highlights from each speech.

There is no textbook for this class. Students will be given handouts, take notes in class, complete online reading, and view teaching videos.

Completion of this course will satisfy the requirements for 1 high school credit as a communication elective.

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