



ENG020: Public Speaking (Elective)

Course Overview

Students are introduced to public speaking as an important component of their academic, work, and social lives. They study public speaking occasions and develop skills as fair and critical listeners, or consumers, of spoken information and persuasion. Students study types of speeches (informative, persuasive, dramatic, and special occasion), read and listen to models of speeches, and prepare and present their own speeches to diverse audiences. Students learn to choose speaking topics and adapt them for specific audiences, to research and support their ideas, and to benefit from listener feedback. They study how to incorporate well-designed visual and multimedia aids in presentations and how to maintain a credible presence in the digital world. Students also learn about the ethics of public speaking and about techniques for managing communication anxiety.

COURSE LENGTH: One semester

MATERIALS: Student must provide a webcam and recording software

PREREQUISITES: None

Course Outline

Unit 1: The What and Why of Public Speaking

Students learn about natural selection and then complete a laboratory. After lessons on the genetic basis of and evidence for evolution, they complete a laboratory on population genetics. Students learn about applications of mathematics, including the Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium and graphing, and review test-taking strategies for free-response questions.

- Course Introduction
- Natural Selection
- Phenotypic Variation in Populations
- Types of Natural Selection
- Laboratory: Natural Selection
- Application of Mathematics: Graphing
- Genetic Basis of Evolution
- Application of Mathematics: Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium
- Vertical and Lateral Gene Transfer
- Laboratory: Population Genetics
- Origin of Life on Earth
- Evidence for Evolution
- Test-Taking Strategies
- Shared Ancestry: Conserved Traits
- Phylogeny and the Interrelatedness of Life
- Speciation and Extinction

Unit 2: Powerful Stories: Using Narratives in Public Speaking

Students analyze the elements and functions of narratives. They compare and contrast diction and tone in oral and written language. They learn to analyze an audience, identify subtle bias used in advertisements and charitable appeals, and address the effects of communication apprehension. They create and deliver a narrative speech, through all stages: brainstorm, outline, draft, deliver, view and give feedback, and read and respond to classmates' feedback.

- What is a Narrative?
- Public Speaking—Not Public Writing
- Stories That Resonate
- Know Your Audience
- Narratives in Ads and Appeals
- Managing Nerves
- Make a Speech
- View, Reflect, and Plan

Unit 3: What Do You Think? Connecting to Listeners' Lives

Students learn about personal narratives and view a model personal narrative speech. They learn about and practice effective posture and build on tactics for managing communication apprehension. They consider how biases may inhibit communication. They select a personal narrative to adapt as a speech for a particular audience. They brainstorm, outline, draft, and deliver the speech; view and give feedback on classmates' speeches; and read and respond to classmates' feedback.

- The Impact of Personal Narratives
- Famous First Words
- Developing Your Personal Narrative
- Public Speaking and Self-Presentation
- Set Aside Barriers to Communicate
- Helpful Distractions
- Make a Speech
- View, Respond, and Reflect

Subject to change:

Unit 4: Three Ways to Deliver a Speech

Students compare and contrast scripted, extemporaneous, and impromptu speaking, and describe circumstances in which each is effective. They learn about primary and secondary research sources, effective nonverbal feedback as a listener, and effective facial expressions and gestures. They adapt a fiction excerpt and present it as a dramatic reading, giving and receiving feedback from their classmates.

Unit 5: Public Speaking for School and Work

Students practice pacing, clarity, preparation, and professional demeanor. They learn how to maintain an effective online persona and prepare for voice-only communications. They create and present two brief recorded phone messages, view and give feedback on classmates' work, and read and reflect on feedback from their peers.

Unit 6: Speech Roadmaps: Introductions, Transitions, and Conclusions

Students learn about effective introductions, transitions, and conclusions. They learn how research from reliable sources strengthens speakers' credibility and how simple visual aids reinforce a speech's content. They create and deliver a speech with a simple visual aid, giving and receiving feedback from their classmates.



Unit 7: You're the Expert: Informing Listeners

Students learn about patterns of organization; how to analyze audience's prior knowledge as part of the research process; and the importance of using reliable, fact-checked sources. They practice the effective use of props in speeches.

Then they create and present an informative speech supported by research. They view and give feedback on classmates' speeches, and read and reflect on feedback from their peers.

Unit 8: Making Your Point: Ways to Organize

Students continue their study of patterns of organization, and learn how to use effective slide decks to enhance speeches. They review techniques for presenting to live audiences, present a short problem-solution speech to a live audience, and gather feedback. They reflect on this feedback and on the experience of speaking before a live audience.

Unit 9: The Power of Persuasion

Students learn about the purposes of persuasive speaking, ethical concerns, and common fallacies. They research a topic for a persuasive speech, learn to predict and analyze audience responses, practice presentation skills that communicate credibility, and practice using positive statements to minimize communication anxiety.

Unit 10: Putting It All Together

Students learn to identify appeals to emotion and logic in persuasive speaking and practice techniques for responding to audience questions. They learn techniques for dealing with hostile listeners. They evaluate and discuss a persuasive speech, develop slides to complement the speech, and deliver a persuasive speech, giving and receiving feedback from their peers.