

10-Week Public Speaking Curriculum

Week 1

Learning Objectives:

- Get to know a bit about each other
- Learn each other's names
- Become more comfortable in the class environment
- Review and understand the curriculum

Class Activities:

- Introductions and 'ice-breaker' games
 - 2 truths and 1 lie
 - Name association game
 - First student says their name preceded by an adjective that starts with the same letter as their name
 - Second student recalls and repeats the adjective and name said by the first student, and then adds their own name and adjective
 - If a student makes a mistake we return to the beginning
 - Game continues until we reach the end and everyone knows each other's names
- Review curriculum outline
- Discuss Homework for following week

Homework:

- Prepare a joke to share with the class next week

Week 2

Learning Objectives:

- Become more comfortable in the class environment
- Learn how the voice can be mechanically manipulated in order to facilitate effective public speaking
- Practice quick-thinking skills and improvisation

Class Activities:

- Discuss Homework from previous week
 - Tell Jokes
- Lesson on the use of voice covering:
 - Projection
 - Enunciation
 - Articulation
 - Pace and pauses
- 'Triple speak' game
 - The first student gets a topic, they ramble about it in any way they can without pausing for 1 minute
 - After 1 minute, a new topic is added, and the second student has to relate these two topics and ramble about it for another minute in the same fashion
 - Game continues until all students have spoken
- Discuss Homework for following week

Homework:

- Come up with 3 personal learning goals for the course

Week 3

Learning Objectives:

- Have concrete personal goals for the course
- Learn how tone can influence speech
- Learn how to structure a 'story'

Class Activities:

- Discuss Homework from previous week
 - Share learning goals
- Lesson on tone of voice
 - Why tone matters in speech
 - Various tones: serious, comedic, etc.
 - How to use tone of voice effectively

Homework:

- Tone - actor examples

WEEK 4

- Lesson on storytelling/anecdotes
 - Narrative structure
 - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person perspectives
 - When and how to include humour
- Discuss Homework for following week

Homework:

- Call a friend and ask them to tell you a funny story that you will share with the class (appropriate) (should be about 4 minutes long each)

Week 5

Learning Objectives:

- Practice effective storytelling skills learned the previous week
- Effectively peer-review
- Practice presenting to the class/improving confidence

Class Activities:

- Discuss Homework from previous week
 - Share friend's funny story
- Class discussion/review of concepts learned the previous week
 - How did your classmates use tone/voice/storytelling skills effectively in their presentations?
 - How could your classmates improve?
- Discuss Homework for following week

Homework:

- Research an animal (through use of online resources, books, etc) and be prepared to tell the class about it for 3 minutes
 - Does not have to be planned - no writing full speeches (ideally no notes, but rather improvisation)

Week 6

Learning Objectives:

- Practice quick-thinking skills
- Further develop quick-thinking and improvisation skills

Class Activities:

- Discuss Homework from previous week
 - Present about animal
- Class discussion/review of concepts learned the previous week
 - How did your classmates use tone/voice/storytelling skills effectively in their presentations?
 - How could your classmates improve?

Homework:

- Watch some TED talks and find an example of a good speech
 - Uses voice/tone/storytelling skills/persuasive skills effectively

Week 7

Learning Objectives:

- Develop a bank of 'good' speeches (TED talk examples)
 - The links will be sent through the zoom chat function
- Learn about persuasive speaking

Class Activities:

- Discuss Homework from previous week
 - TED Talks
 - Share them with class through Zoom chat function
 - What made them 'good'?
 - Was there anything that the speaker could have improved?
- Lesson on persuasive speaking
 - What is a persuasive speech?
 - Usually presents a problem and/or
 - A call to action and/or
 - A solution
 - What are the key components of persuasive speaking
 - Appeal to emotion and/or
 - Appeal to logic
 - Why do we use persuasive speeches?
 - How is it different to storytelling?
- Discuss Homework for following week
 - Mention final project/beginning to brainstorm topics
 - Explain the art of 'impromptu' speaking
 - This has been introduced through 'triple speak', but we want to eventually add structure

Homework:

- Practice speaking completely impromptu
- Continue brainstorming topics for final project

Week 8

Learning Objectives:

- Confidently be able to speak ‘off-the-cuff’
- Continue to develop quick-thinking skills
- Practice effective and helpful peer-review

Class Activities:

- Check-in with students to make sure everyone has decided on a topic for the final presentation
- Impromptu activity
 - The first student will be given 3 words in a private Zoom message by me
 - They will then have 2 minutes to think about the topic, and write down prompts/notes in order to help them speak about it
 - After the 2 minutes have elapsed, they will talk about the topic (ideally in a structured manner) for 4 minutes
- Class discussion following each speech
 - What did your classmate do well? What public speaking strategies did they utilise effectively?
 - What could they improve on?
- Discuss Homework for following week

Homework:

- Decide on a topic for final project
- Bring a joke to class

Week 9

Learning Objectives:

- Have a concrete grasp of persuasive speaking methods and uses
- Learn how to effectively structure a persuasive speech
- Understand the importance of physical presence and physicality in public speaking
- Have a concrete grasp of the structure of a persuasive speech

Class Activities:

- Discuss Homework from previous week
 - Share jokes
 - Check-in with students to make sure everyone has decided on a topic for their final project
- Lesson on how to structure an effective persuasive speech
 - Introduction
 - Anecdotes and stories
 - Background information of the problem
 - Possibly a literal introduction
 - Body
 - Analysis of the problem
 - Appeals to emotions and/or logic
 - Use of further anecdotes or statistics
 - Call to action
 - Solutions

- What needs to change?
- What needs to be done to facilitate this change?
- What can your audience do?
- Check-in with students regarding the planning of their final project - answer any questions as needed
- Lesson on physicality and public speaking
 - Stances
 - Movement
 - Arms and hands
 - Facial expressions
- Discuss Homework for following week

Homework:

- Prepare for presentation of the final project
 - Students are allowed cue cards but:
 - The speech should not be 'read' (eyes should not be glued to the paper)

Week 10

Learning Objectives:

- Utilise all of the skills learned over the past 10 weeks in order to effectively and confidently speak publicly

Class Activities:

- Presentations of final projects (5 minutes per student)
- Remainder of time will be dedicated to activities or games the students particularly enjoyed during the course
- Goodbyes