

Public Speaking & Debate Course Syllabus

Course Overview

This 25-week course is designed to help students develop their public speaking skills. introduce middle school students to the fundamentals of debate.

Each session will last 50 minutes and will cover.

-various aspects of public speaking, including speech writing, delivery, and overcoming anxiety.

-various aspects of debating, including argument construction, research, and rebuttal techniques.

Materials Needed:

- *Notebook and pen/pencil*

- *Index cards for speech notes*

- *I-pad or Laptop or Chromebook for research and creating visual aids*

- *Optional: Props for speeches, if desired*

Evaluation

- *Participation and engagement in activities and discussions (40%)*

- *Progress and effort in speech development and delivery (30%)*

- *Final presentation (30%)*

Fall Semester (January 2025- May 2025)

Week 1: Introduction to Public Speaking

*Objective: Understand the basics of public speaking and its importance.

*Activities:

- Introduction to the course
- Icebreaker activities
- Discuss the importance and benefits of public speaking
- Overview of the course structure and expectations

Week 2: Overcoming Fear and Building Confidence

*Objective: Learn techniques to manage and overcome public speaking anxiety.

*Activities:

- Discussion on common fears associated with public speaking
- Breathing and relaxation exercises
- Confidence-building activities - Practice speaking in front of a small group

Week 3: Understanding Your Audience

*Objective: Learn how to analyze and understand the audience.

*Activities:

- Discuss the importance of knowing your audience
- Identify different types of audiences
- Tailoring messages to different audiences
- Audience analysis exercise

Week 4: Developing a Strong Message

*Objective: Learn how to create a clear and engaging message.

*Activities:

- Elements of a good speech (introduction, body, conclusion)
- Choosing a topic
- Brainstorming session
- Outline a speech

Week 5: Speech Writing Basics

*Objective: Learn the fundamentals of writing a speech.

*Activities:

- Writing clear and concise introductions
- Developing main points with supporting details
- Crafting effective conclusions
- Writing exercises

Week 6: Using Visual Aids

*Objective: Understand how to effectively use visual aids in presentations.

*Activities:

- Discuss different types of visual aids (slides, props, charts)
- Tips for creating effective visuals
- Integrating visuals into speeches
- Practice with visual aids

Week 7: Vocal Techniques and Body Language

*Objective: Learn how to use voice and body language to enhance a speech. -

*Activities:

- Vocal exercises (pitch, tone, pace)
- Importance of body language and gestures
- Practicing vocal variety and body language
- Feedback session

Week 8: Persuasive Speaking

*Objective: Develop skills for delivering persuasive speeches.

*Activities:

- Discuss elements of persuasive speaking
- Techniques for persuading an audience
- Preparing a persuasive speech outline
- Practice persuasive speech delivery

Week 9: Impromptu Speaking

*Objective: Develop skills for speaking without preparation.

*Activities:

- Techniques for impromptu speaking
- Practice impromptu speaking exercises
- Quick thinking and organization tips
- Impromptu speech practice

Week 10: Practicing and Refining Speeches

*Objective: Polish and practice speeches in preparation for the final presentation.

*Activities:

- Peer review and feedback sessions
- Finalize speech drafts
- Rehearsal of speeches
- Constructive critique and improvement tips

Week 11: Final Presentations

*Objective: Deliver a polished final speech in front of the class.

*Activities:

- Students present their final speeches
- Peer and instructor feedback
- Discussion on lessons learned and progress made
- Course wrap-up and celebration of achievements

*******CONTINNUE IN SPRING SEMESTER*******

Spring Semester (January 2025- May 2025)

Week 1: Introduction to Debate

*Objective: Understand the basics of debate and its importance.

*Activities:

- Discuss the purpose and benefits of debating
- Overview of different debate formats

Week 2: Debate Fundamentals

*Objective: Learn the structure and rules of debate.

*Activities

- Basic components of a debate (affirmative, negative, rebuttal)
- Understanding debate roles (speaker positions)
- Rules and etiquette in debating
- Watch and analyze a sample debate

Week 3: Building Arguments

*Objective: Learn how to construct strong arguments.

*Activities:

- Elements of a persuasive argument (claim, evidence, reasoning)
- Brainstorming session on potential debate topics
- Writing and structuring arguments
- Practice presenting arguments

Week 4: Research Skills

*Objective: Develop effective research skills for debate.

*Activities:

- Identifying credible sources
- Researching for evidence and facts
- Note-taking and organizing research
- Practice finding and citing sources

Week 5: Developing Cases

*Objective: Learn how to develop comprehensive debate cases.

*Activities:

- Constructing affirmative and negative cases
- Writing introductions and conclusions
- Case organization and flow
- Group work on creating case outlines

Week 6: Rebuttal and Refutation

Objective: Master techniques for rebutting and refuting arguments.

Activities:

- Strategies for effective rebuttals
- Identifying weaknesses in opponents' arguments
- Practice refutation exercises
- Mock rebuttal sessions

Week 7: Cross-Examination Techniques

Objective: Develop skills for effective cross-examination.

-Activities:

- Purpose and structure of cross-examination
- Crafting and asking probing questions
- Responding to cross-examination
- Role-play cross-examination scenarios

Week 8: Public Speaking and Delivery

- Objective: Enhance public speaking and delivery skills.

- Activities:

- Vocal techniques and clarity
- Body language and gestures
- Engaging the audience
- Practice delivering parts of debate cases

Week 9: Debate Strategies and Ethics

Objective: Learn advanced strategies and ethical considerations in debate.

Activities:

- Strategic planning for debates
- Time management during debates
- Ethical considerations and respectful debating
- Discussion and analysis of famous debates

Week 10: Organizing Practice Debates

-Objective: Apply learned skills in practice debates.

Activities:

- Organizing practice debates
- Group work on preparing cases
- Conducting practice debates
- Feedback and critique sessions

Week 11: Advanced Argumentation

Objective: Develop advanced argumentation techniques.

Activities:

- Building complex arguments
- Using advanced evidence and data
- Practicing advanced rebuttal techniques - Group exercises and presentations

Week 12: Enhancing Persuasion Skills

Objective: Focus on persuasive techniques in debate.

Activities:

- Analyzing persuasive speeches and debates
- Practicing emotional appeals and logical reasoning
- Role-playing persuasive scenarios
- Peer review and feedback

Week 13: Mock Debates

Objective: Conduct and refine skills through mock debates.

Activities:

- Organizing mock debates with structured feedback
- Practicing under timed conditions
- Rotating roles and positions
- Peer and instructor critique

Week 14: Final Debates and Course Wrap-Up

Objective: Demonstrate learned skills in final debates and reflect on progress.

Activities:

- Preparation for final debates
- Formal debate sessions
- Peer and instructor feedback
- Course wrap-up and reflection on progress
- Celebration of achievements and distribution of certificates

*****THE END*****