**Public Speaking 2023-24 Syllabus**

Hello, and welcome to Public Speaking! This has always been one of my favorite classes to teach, and although I’m switching it up a bit this year, I’m still really looking forward to it. In fact, this class will be quite different in that it’s now a traditional semester block class, so I had to overhaul all of my old plans, and, in many ways, this will be a new class!

I know many of you are nervous about this class, because everyone who doesn’t love speaking in front of people absolutely hates it. My only goal in this class is to get each one of you, individually, to feel more comfortable talking in front of a group at the end of the semester. Even if it’s only a tiny amount, I hope you’ll feel noticeably better about public speaking at the end of January. In fact, we’ll be keeping a journal (of sorts), in which you reflect on your own experiences as a public speaker. We’ll also be evaluating each other as we present.

Look - I know most people don’t like public speaking. I don’t even love it all the time, and I teach it! However, being able to do it well is an important skill as you move forward in life. Regardless of the career path you choose, if you want to advance along it, and even move up into higher-level positions within it, you’re very likely going to have to speak to more than one person at a time. Now is the time to build your confidence and skillset, and that’s what I’m hoping to help you do this semester.

So, here’s an overview of the class, although things are always in flux, I try to be as flexible as possible, and aspects of this could certainly change!

**Units**

Introduction to Public Speaking

Speech: An Important Item

Refining the Technique

Speech: Written Informational Speech (Experience or Interest)

Speech: My Story in a Song, with Slides/Visual Aids

Persuasive Research Piece

Speech: National or Global Issue, with Slides/Visual Aids

Professional Speech and Presentation

Speech: Written Speech on Career-Interest Topic, with Slides/Visual Aids

Final Presentation

Speech: Who Is Important to Me?, with Slides/Visual Aids

**Required Materials**

Chromebook (Everyday! CHARGED!!)

Binder/Folder for Handouts

Some Kind of Writing Utensil

**Grading Breakdown**

Summative Speeches and Projects - 45%

Formative Classwork Assignments - 35%

Participation (i.e. - Presentation Feedback Forms) - 20%

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