

Summer 2025 OERI Public Speaking Summary

Updated 8-26-25

Overview

During the summer of 2025, a group of communication studies faculty was convened for the purpose of identifying available open educational resources (OER) that could be used to support content and objective elements identified as being additions to what was normally covered in public speaking courses prior to recent statewide curriculum changes. The determination of what was new was made by comparing the existing expectations associated with the Course Identification Numbering System (C-ID) descriptor for [COMM 110](#) with the [Common Course Numbering C1000 template](#) and the expectations for the course as meeting CalGETC Area 1C (Oral Communication; see page 23 of [CalGETC Standards Version 1.2](#)).

The additional elements are summarized in the table below.

Additional Content and Objectives/Outcomes Potentially Needed to Ensure Public Speaking Text Alignment with the [Common Course Numbering C1000 Template](#) and the [CalGETC Standards Version 1.2](#) for CalGETC Area 1C

Content
Foundational rhetorical theories, including the canons of rhetoric and Aristotelian proofs, as well as relevant principles of human communication.
Critical analysis of historical and contemporary public discourse.
Rhetorical sensitivity to diverse audiences.
Objectives/Outcomes
Apply rhetorical theories to create and analyze public speeches in a variety of contexts including historical and/or contemporary.
Demonstrate rhetorical sensitivity to diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging and adhere to ethical communication practices which include truthfulness, accuracy, honesty, and reason.

Various analyses were conducted to assess which of the identified elements could be found in existing OER. In addition, the members of the convened group did their own analyses. Through the discussions of the group, it was determined that most of the elements were covered to some extent in most texts and many were likely taught by most faculty teaching public speaking - but it was recognized that some faculty might find it useful to have a resource that assisted them in finding related content, should they wish to supplement the resources they were presently using.

As a consequence, the resources provided below were gathered to assist faculty seeking additional content. These resources have not been subjected to review and may not be comprehensive. This document should be viewed as a work in progress. [Please share any feedback you may have - as well as additional resources - with the OERI.](#)

Recently, [Essentials of Exemplary Public Speaking](#) was completed. This textbook was created specifically for today's California Community College public speaking students and includes carefully curated content from a variety of public speaking textbooks. This textbook was specifically designed to support a speech course aligned to the Common Course Numbering (CCN) template for COMM C1000. In addition, subject matter has been revised and edited to include updated research, examples geared toward community college students, and citations. Students who read this textbook will learn and apply foundational rhetorical theories and techniques of public speaking in a multicultural democratic society. Students will discover, and critically analyze ideas in public discourse through research, reasoning, organization, composition, and delivery.

The OERI is still planning on creating a supplemental resource to provide potentially missing content and to establish a collection of speeches that may be used in your teaching. A [Canvas shell of available OER for teaching public speaking is available in Canvas Commons](#).

Open Educational Resources for Teaching Public Speaking

The table below provides a summary of various analyses intended to identify elements (content or objectives/outcomes) that are explicitly required to be taught in public speaking courses at California community colleges if they are to be aligned with the [Common Course Numbering C1000 template](#) and the expectations for the course in order to fulfill CalGETC Area 1C (Oral Communication; see page 23 of [CalGETC Standards Version 1.2](#)). [Please share any corrections or additional information with the OERI](#) (oeeri@asccc.org).

Required Element(s)	COMS 105: Fundamentals of Public Speaking	Exploring Public Speaking	Essentials of Exemplary Public Speaking	Introduction to Public Communication	Stand up, Speak out – The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking in LibreTexts	Missing/Additional Resources
Foundational rhetorical theories ("Foundational rhetorical theories, including the canons of rhetoric and Aristotelian proofs, as well as relevant principles of human	Partially covered: Models in Ch 1 mention canons in passing	Partially covered: Ch 1 historical definitions, no proofs/canons	1 (Intro: History and Models)	Partially covered: Ch 1 "Foundations" briefly situates speech in classical context	2 (Origins of PS)	A Guide to Rhetoric, Genre, and Success in First-Year Writing (The Interactive 2nd Edition) (CC BY-NC-SA; Gagich and Zickel) Chapter 6, Thinking and Analyzing Rhetorically Reading Rhetorical Theory: Speech, Representation, and Power (Hallsby; CC BY-NC) – Chapter 1: "What is Rhetorical Theory?" This chapter introduces core concepts and the origins of rhetorical theory (including classical principles like Aristotle's proofs), providing a thorough foundation in rhetoric that reviewers recommend for public speaking students. Rhetoric and Speech in the Digital Age by Newsom & Montenegro (CC BY-NC-SA) - Canvas Commons

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communication.”)						Rhetoric and Persuasion (Williams) (CC BY-NC-SA) Defining and Locating Digital Rhetoric in Writing and Publishing in Digital Environments: A Cross-Disciplinary Guide for College Writers (Sheffield) (CC BY-NC) Rhetoric According to Aristotle in History of Rhetoric in Writing (Friend) (CC BY-NC) Classical Rhetoric in Informed Arguments: A Guide to Writing and Research (Pantuso et., al) (CC BY-NC-SA)
Canons of rhetoric						The 5 Canons of Rhetoric in Open Rhetoric: A Collaborative History of Rhetorical Theory and Practice (CC BY-NC)
Aristotelian proofs						Reading Rhetorical Theory: Speech, Representation, and Power (Hallsby; CC BY-NC) – Chapter 1: “What is Rhetorical Theory?” Aristotle’s Rhetorical Appeals in Open Rhetoric: A Collaborative History of Rhetorical Theory and Practice (CC BY-NC)
Principles of human communication					Covers the process of public speaking including dialogical theory.	Speak Out, Call In: Public Speaking as Advocacy (CC BY-NC-SA) Chapter 1, Section titled “Communication is Constitutive, Contextual, and Cultural” Effective Professional Communication: A Rhetorical Approach (Bennetch. Owen. and Keesey) (CC BY-NC-SA) Communication in the Real World (CC BY-NC-SA)
Critical analysis of historical and		• Partially covered: Ch 3 Ethics includes “civil discourse” section	• Partially covered: Ch 17 (Logical			

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contemporary public discourse.			Reasoning) introduces critical-thinking tools			Critical Analysis of Public Discourse: <i>Introduction to Communication</i> (Scott Paynton and Laura Hahn) – Section 7.3: “Understanding Rhetorical Criticism” on LibreTexts (CC BY-SA). This resource explains how to analyze historical and contemporary speeches and other rhetorical artifacts, outlining the purpose and scope of rhetorical criticism and giving examples of questions such analysis can answer. It equips students with a framework for critically evaluating public discourse. 7.3 is part of a Chapter 7, titled “Rhetorical Criticism” Critical Disinformation Studies - “CITAP's critical approach to disinformation incorporates history, inequality, power, and culture.” Discourse and Discourse Community in Thinking Rhetorically: Writing for Professional and Public Audiences (CC BY-NC-SA) Unproductive Public Discourse and the Politics of Polarization in Public Speaking and Democratic Participation: Speech, Deliberation, and Analysis in the Civic Realm (Abbott et al., 2025) (CC BY)
Showcasing rhetorical sensitivity to diverse audiences.	Partially covered: Ch 5 Audience Analysis lists demographic factors, no DEI lens	Partially covered: Ch 2 covers psychographics with brief inclusion references	5 (Audience Analysis)	2 (Global Engagement and Culture)	5 (Audience Analysis)	Only two texts cover DEI in depth; no focused chapter on inclusive framing in the rest. Inclusive Communication: Communication in the Real World: An Introduction to Communication Studies (JMU Faculty) – Chapter 7: “Culture and Communication” (especially 8.4 the section on Intercultural Communication Competence) (CC BY-SA 4.0). This chapter covers communicating effectively across diverse cultures and encourages the use of inclusive language, with guidance on avoiding stereotypes or marginalizing any group. It thus fills gaps related to inclusive, culturally responsive communication in the curriculum. NOTE – Chapter numbers are different in LibreTexts.

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						Praise and Criticism in Organizational Communication Anthology .
Application of persuasive techniques and rhetorical theories to create and analyze public speeches in a variety of contexts including historical and/or contemporary						
Demonstrative rhetorical sensitivity to diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging						Diversity and Difference in Communication (The Open University, CC BY-NC-SA) Language and Culture in Context - A Primer on Intercultural Communication (Godwin-Jones; CC BY-NC): Chapter 7, Encountering Other Cultures Reading Rhetorical Theory: Speech, Representation, and Power (Hallsby; CC BY-NC): Part 3, Power
Ethical Considerations in Public Address and Communication (truthfulness, accuracy, honesty, and reason)						
Ethical communication practices	2 (Ethics)	3 (Ethics)	4 (Ethics)		2 (Ethics Matters)	—
Effective listening and constructive feedback	4 (Listening Effectively)	2 (Audience Analysis and Listening)	5 (Audience Analysis—listening interplay)	5 (Listening)	4 (The Importance of Listening)	—

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Adaptation to audiences, situations and purposes	5 + 6 (Audience Analysis and Organizing)	2 + 6	5 + later organization chapters	10 (Speech Preparation)	...	—
Types of speeches (inform, persuade, entertain)	1 (Intro—speech types)	1 (Basics)	1 (Intro)	11 (Persuasive Speaking)	1 (Why PS Matters)	—
Outlining and composing effective speeches	6 (Organizing and Outlining)	6 (Organizing and Outlining)	3 (Developing Topic) and 6 (Organization)	10 (Speech Preparation)	...	—
Research strategies (locate and critically evaluate sources)	7 (Research and Evidence)	5 (Researching Your Speeches)	7 (Beginning the Research Process)	9 (Research and Evidence)	7 (Researching Your Speech)	—
Use of credible evidence and sound reasoning; citations	7 (Research and Evidence)	7 (Supporting Your Speech Ideas)	6 (Supporting Ideas and Arguments)	9 (Research and Evidence)	7.3 (Citing Sources)	—
Effective practice and delivery skills	3 (Speaking with Confidence)	11 (Delivery)	(Delivery chapters)	10 (Speech Preparation)	3 (Speaking Confidently)	—
Effective verbal and nonverbal practices	(Delivery modules)	11 (Methods and Voice)	(Delivery and Language)	3 (Verbal Communication) and 4 (Nonverbal Communication)	...	—
Techniques for managing communication apprehension	3 (Speaking with Confidence)	1 (Anxiety in Basics)	2 (Apprehension)		3 (Speaking Confidently)	—
Delivery of a variety of Student-composed speeches (Informative and Persuasive)	• Ch 12 – Persuasive Speaking; Informative sample before Ch 12	• Ch 12 – Informative Speaking • Ch 13 – Persuasive Speaking	• Ch 10 – Informative Speaking • Ch 12 – Delivering the Speech	• Ch 10 – Speech Prep (10.6: Delivery) • Ch 11 – Persuasive Speaking	• Ch 16 – Informative and Ch 17 – Persuasive Speaking	—

Available OER for Public Speaking ([access OERI's complete list of resources for Communication Studies](#))

Public Speaking Textbooks Identified by OERI

- [COMM 1: Introduction to Public Speaking \(2023\) – Fresno City College \(CC BY-NC-SA\)](#)
- [Exploring Public Speaking: 4th Edition \(Barton and Tucker\) in Galileo \(CC BY-NC-SA\)](#)
[Exploring Public Speaking \(Barton and Tucker\) in LibreTexts \(CC BY-NC-SA\)](#)
- [Fundamentals of Public Speaking \(Stokes-Rice, Leonard, and Rome, College of the Canyons\) \(CC BY 4.0\)](#)
[COMS 105: Fundamentals of Public Speaking \(CC BY\) – LibreTexts](#)
- [Introduction to Public Communication - Indiana State University \(CC BY-SA 4.0\)](#)
- [Speak Out, Call In: Public Speaking as Advocacy Author \(Mapes, 2019\) – Pressbooks \(CC BY-NC-SA\)](#)
- [Stand Up, Speak Out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking \(Saylor Academy, 2012\) \(CC BY-NC-SA\)](#)
[Stand up, Speak out – The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking in LibreTexts \(CC BY-NC-SA\)](#)

Additional Public Speaking Texts

- [Advanced Public Speaking \(Meade\) \(CC BY-NC\)](#)
- [Communication in the Real World - An Introduction to Communication Studies \(Anonymous\) \(CC BY-NC-SA\)](#)
- [It's About Them - Public Speaking in the 21st Century \(Kim et al.\) \(CC BY-NC-SA\)](#)