

The Radio Project

Overview:

Ladies and gentlemen, it is very simple. There is no greater gift you can give your child in the first five years of their life than either the love of reading or the comfort level of it. Toys will come and go, but the ability to handle language in a confident - and even enthusiastic - manner is the best, cheapest present you will ever offer them. Any number of experts tells us that parents who read often and well to their children can have a significant impact on how well that child performs in a classroom later in life. Additionally, in a world where the future of your own employment will always be in flux (That means, who knows what you'll be doing ten years from now or where you'll be doing it.), there is one skill you will always need – the ability to verbally express your ideas, beliefs, disagreements and inspirations in a way that brings about the respect of your bosses and fellow employees.

These two goals, while seemingly having little to do with one another, are two of the most important objectives for your life. As a parent, you want to help steer the course of your child's life for the better and get them off to the best start you can so that education is not a source of frustration for them but one of joy and satisfaction. As someone who must some day establish a career for yourself, you have to be able to sell your skills and ideas to others in order to provide a good living for yourself and your family.

In education we often stress the importance of reading and writing but pay too little attention to effective speaking skills. Ironically, speaking and reading well are two of the most beneficial skill sets you can possibly attain and this first unit is all about embarking you on the process towards gaining them. This project, and many others to come, is designed to achieve those priorities and to turn a fear of speaking well in front of others into a strength. To that end, we begin the first of many exercises designed to make you a more entertaining reader to your children and a more accomplished speaker for your chosen career(s).

Improving your voice is the main focus of the first project, but along with that goal we include other objectives that will make you more valuable as an employee, such as:

- following directions/being more detail-minded
- accelerating writing/proofreading skills
- enhancing organizational skills
- developing creativity and innovation
- improving time management
- envisioning an excellent product before you've begun developing it

Specific Objectives:

1. to improve the students' understanding, awareness and usage of their own voice in pitch, rate, intensity, inflection and articulation
2. to teach the students the value of practicing oral presentations so that the quality is consistently high every time it is performed
3. to improve creative writing skills and command of punctuation, capitalization and sentence structure
4. to improve upon their ability to read thoroughly and follow directions

5. to capably handle deadlines and project demands

6. to work cooperatively with another student and learn to delegate responsibilities

Requirements:

1. You are to create an imaginary middle school located somewhere within the United States or in a U.S. protectorate (e.g. - Guam, Puerto Rico, Samoa etc.). Additionally, you are allowed to place it in an established U.S. military base located throughout the world.

2. The student, with or without a partner, will present a seven/five minute radio newscast.

3. The presentation will include two thirty second commercials (different for solo readers).

4. The presentation will include a minimum of three stories from your grade level as well as three stories from other grade levels at your middle or high school. (All stories will come from your imagination). The presentation will also include a sports section (also with a minimum of three stories) as well as weather.

5. The presentation will include an introduction that will include the student(s) name(s) as well as introducing their radio station with the students' chosen call sign (e.g. - WLS, WGN). This will be preceded by 20 - 40 seconds of music. If you do not have music, be prepared to sing or lose points (Mr. Harper recommends, "It's a Small World After All".)

6. The presentation cannot be any more or less than 6:50 - 7:05 in total time - less for solo performances which may be 4:50 - 5:05 seconds in length.

7. Each commercial will be no longer than :30 or shorter than :25. (more for solo performances which can be :25 to :35 in length)

8. Students may use up to ten sound effects but no more. Students choosing to use sound effects must stay after school to review, choose and burn their effects onto a CD. If you add this element to your presentation, you will be graded on a twenty-point scale that will rate you on appropriate usage in both your selection of sound effects and how it supported your script. The use of sound effects decreases the number of points you will be graded on your commercials.

9. The entire project is worth the value of THREE one hundred point tests. A one day delay requires a complete grade reduction in your presentation points (NO EXCUSES OTHER THAN ILLNESS/FAMILY MATTERS. If you are not prepared after your first late date, this will incur a failing grade.

Material Review:	100 pts.
Directions Assignment:	100 pts.
Presentation:	200 pts.
Total:	400 pts.

10. Students who take on this project as a duet do so with the understanding that they will share the same grade in all areas but Use of Time and the Material Review.

11. This project will NOT be viewed by the audience; rather we will listen to you over speakers from a studio placed within the library or in the hallway outside of class.

12. All readers will be heard by the students in the classroom.

13. Prior to the presentation, students will have the opportunity to volunteer to perform some or all of their presentation for the benefit of the class (You become our all important “sacrificial lambs”). This presentation will be graded, but the grade will not count. It serves only to give you and the other class members an indication of your progress and to act as a teaching/correction model for other students.

To succeed with this project, you will be required to tap into a number of management skills that are ordinarily not required of you; however, you can't begin to develop these attributes too soon. For that reason I advocate the importance of “tions” when it comes to approaching any project or the implementation of a complex program. If you are to become a good manager you should acquire the following abilities:

OrganizaTION – the ability to master the use of time, to understand the goal of the task and to recognize all the parts and their requirements needed for excellence.

PreparaTION – the ability to make sure that everything you recognized that was supposed to be done IS done. You must learn to be concerned with DETAILS and trust nothing to chance. Sometimes that includes people as well.

AnticipaTION – the ability to look into the future and solve problems BEFORE they become problems. You must see the completed project in your mind and what it will take to get there – then move backwards to the present and see what must be done in advance. This is all about improving your envisioning skills and learning to be the type of person who prevents little problems from becoming big ones because you act in advance while others do not.

ExecuTION – the simplest ability of them all, to do what must be done on the date and moment it is scheduled and achieve excellence. Those who know how to execute are those who are never rattled by pressure, for if you have mastered the first three “tions”, execution is the easiest task of all