

Dynamic Public Speaking Syllabus
Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School
2025-2026

I. Instructor and contact information:

Ms. Mentzel
jmentzel@rumsonfairhaven.org
732-842-1597 x. 826



II. Meeting time and location:

S1: Periods 1 and 4
S2: Periods 1 and 7
Room 208

III. Office Hours:

Before School:

Day 3, 7:15-7:40AM and Day 4, 7:25-7:40AM

During Lunch:

Day 1, second 30 minutes of lunch block and Day 3, first 30 minutes of lunch block

IV. Course description:

Dynamic Public Speaking is a semester elective that fosters skills essential for success in any academic, social, and professional context; promoting confidence in public speaking and the development of successful presentation techniques will be the focus of the course.

V. Major Units of Study:

Unit I: Introduction to Narrative Speech
Unit II: Refining Presentation: Techniques and Tactics
Unit III: Harnessing Emotion
Unit IV: The Art of Persuasion and Debate
Unit V: Capstone Project

VI. Classroom Rules:

1. Arrive to class on time, with all materials, ready to work. Materials should be on your desk when the bell rings.
2. Our classroom is inclusive. You are required to be respectful & welcoming to all.
3. Please sign out when leaving the classroom for the bathroom, getting water, etc.
4. Check Google Classroom for important information and due dates.
5. We have a fidget toy bin in the classroom. These are a privilege and not a right; using them inappropriately, being disruptive, throwing toys, or other rule violations will result in a loss of this privilege.
6. Students will follow all school rules as outlined in the RFH Student Handbook.

VII. Grading Breakdown:

Coursework 30%
Performance Activities 60%
Participation 10%

VIII. Class Preparedness:

Students must have their charged school-issued Chromebook devices with them every day in school. Students must also have their notebooks, pens, pencils, and calculators every day. Students are expected to be ready to participate, answer, and interact with other students when prompted. *If students are unprepared, including missing their school-issued Chromebook when it is necessary for an assignment or assessment, they are subject to receiving a zero for that assignment.*

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IX. Important RFH Procedures, Policies, and Guidelines:

→ **Cell phones in class:**

- ◆ All devices must be turned off and put away in classroom caddies when class begins. Cell phones must be placed in the classroom cell phone caddy for the entire block/period.
 - **First Offense:** Teacher conference and confiscation of device (returned at the end of the day).
 - **Second Offense:** After-school detention and confiscation of device (returned at the end of the day).
 - **Third Offense:** Saturday detention and confiscation of the device, which must be picked up by a parent/guardian.
 - **Additional Offenses:** May result in further restrictions of student privileges.

→ **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI):**

- ◆ *At RFH, we approach this moment with both hope and caution. We believe Artificial Intelligence has the potential to transform learning in powerful ways by enhancing understanding of course material, promoting student-centered and problem-based learning, and fostering digital literacy, creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. However, students must be active decision-makers, consistently evaluating and using these tools ethically and responsibly, without compromising academic integrity. We expect our use of AI in the classroom to evolve as the school year goes on. **Your teacher will provide guidance on the appropriate and acceptable use of AI for this class, but it is your responsibility to adhere to their instructions.** Should you have any questions or concerns, please speak with your teacher.*

→ **Laptop Devices**

- ◆ No student shall use another student's district-issued log-on credentials.
- ◆ No privately owned electronic device may be attached to any Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School network.
- ◆ Violation of school or district policies, local, state, and/or federal laws while using a personal electronic device on the RFH wireless network will result in appropriate disciplinary and/or legal action as specified in the Student Handbook and Conduct Code, School Board policy

→ **Attendance Policy and Assessments**

- ◆ A student may be dropped from or denied course credit when absent 14 or more classes for a full-year course; the change from 18 to 14 absences aligns with the rotating drop schedule.
- ◆ *If a student comes in late or leaves early and misses a class during which an assessment is administered or due, the student may only retake the evaluation or turn the assessment in late if they have a doctor's note or an absence excused by the state; otherwise, the student receives a zero for that assignment.*

→ **Short Term Assignments and Major Assessment Information**

- ◆ Homework will be due at the beginning of the class period the next time the class meets. Assignment dates will be posted in Google Classroom. Students are encouraged to upload their work.
- ◆ **Short-Term Homework Assignments** - Short-term homework assignments are given on an ongoing basis in all academic courses. Credit for short-term homework assignments will only be given if they are submitted on the due date at the designated time. Students are expected to follow the guidelines established in the RFH Student Handbook for the submission of work if they are absent on the due date for the entire school day. Specific IEP stipulations and 504 Plan modifications are exceptions to this policy.
- ◆ **Major Assessments** - Major assessments are required course components in all academic courses, and they will be evaluated using corresponding rubrics. Failure to complete any of the designated criteria for a major assessment or minimal demonstration of effort on any facet of a major assessment will have a negative impact on student performance. Students are strongly advised to develop their projects beyond the minimum passing levels as determined by the instructor, and they are encouraged to confer with the instructor on ways in which they can develop their final products. Timely completion is a fundamental criterion for all major assessments: late assignments will be penalized according to the established policy:
 - 10% grade reduction off of the final grade if the major assessment is not submitted on the due date at the designated time. Additional 10% reductions will be given for two days subsequent to the due date. After this time has passed, the grade is reduced to no credit (0).

If a student is in school on the day in which a major assessment is due and is absent from class, the assignment must be e-mailed or submitted to the instructor by the end of the school day. Failure to do so will result in the

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established late penalty. Exceptions to this policy will be up to the discretion of the instructor and/or the department supervisor if there are extenuating circumstances. Specific IEP stipulations and 504 Plan modifications are also exceptions.

- The consequences for a violation of academic integrity on a major assessment will correspond to the penalties outlined in the RFH Student Handbook.
- Students are expected to follow the guidelines established in the RFH Student Handbook for the submission of work if they are absent on the due date for the entire school day.

X. Materials:

- ☐ School-issued Chromebook
- ☐ Headphones
- ☐ Pen (blue or black)
- ☐ Highlighters (multiple colors)
- ☐ Folder and notebook OR binder
- ☐ PRINTED COPY of all speeches on due dates

XI. Tentative Schedule:

Marking Period One During this marking period, we will practice the fundamentals of public speaking.		
Units	Assignments	Approximate Timeline
Unit I: Introduction to Narrative Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrative Speech Outlines/Drafts Journals Reflections Analysis & Reenactment of Models Performance Games Emotional Selfies Project Passion Project 	Unit I: Weeks 1-4
Unit II: Refining Presentation: Techniques and Tricks		Unit II: Weeks 5-6
Unit III: Harnessing Emotion		Unit III: Weeks 7-11

Marking Period Two During this marking period, we will craft longer and more in-depth speeches requiring further research components.		
Unit/s & Texts	Assignments	Timeline
Unit IV: The Art of Persuasion & Debate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journals Reflections Persuasive Speeches formal & improvised debates written responses research analysis of public speaking models Speech drafts & outlines Final Speech project 	Unit IV: Weeks 12-16
Unit V: Capstone		Unit V: Weeks 17-20

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