

Speech and Debate

Course Description:

Over the next three weeks, students will learn the techniques for building and delivering a successful speech. Students will engage in delivering speeches, as well as participating in formal and informal debates. In addition, students will have the necessary skills to critique, analyze and question speeches and debates delivered by others.

This course will develop and improve public speaking, argumentative, and critical-thinking skills in communication settings. Students will prepare and deliver speeches and participate in several of in-class debates and forums on current topics. Techniques will be taught to control speech anxiety, and structure and organize information to present to a variety of audiences. As such, the fundamentals of physical and vocal delivery skills, use of language and gesturing, as well as listening skills will be learned. Please note that time requirements are given for each speech.

Course Goals and Objectives

- 1. Goal:** To research and deliver various speeches including, but not limited to
 - Objective:** Deliver an impromptu speech—one where a speaker is given a topic and then presents a speech within minutes.
 - Objective:** Research and deliver a commemorative speech—one where the speech is based upon important incidents in history.
 - Objective:** Research and deliver an educational speech—one which gives information on topics that were researched.
 - Objective:** Research and deliver a persuasive speech that intends to change the audience's opinion on a specific subject.
- 2. Goal:** Research and participate in debates using various methods
 - Objective:** Research and participate in a Lincoln/Douglas [presidential] debate format.
 - Objective:** Research and participate in a Four Corner debate format—one which forces the speaker to take a stand on a position prior to the beginning of the debate.
- 3. Goal:** Critique, analyze, and pose questions using specific listening techniques.
 - Objective:** Introduce the techniques used by great speakers in history, including John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Course Materials:

1. One subject spiral notebook
2. A pack of index cards
3. Black pens
4. Highlighter(s)