

# PUBLIC SPEAKING

## Course Overview

*“Americans hate public speaking! Most people would rather be in the casket at a funeral rather than standing up and giving the eulogy.” – Jerry Seinfeld*

*“There can be no fairer ambition than to excel in talk.” – Robert Louis Stevenson*

*“All good speakers were once bad speakers.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson*

**Welcome to Public Speaking!** From college interviews, student council elections, oral presentations in English class, or persuading friends on which movie to enjoy, public speaking is an essential skill to master. The goal of this class is to make you an effective, exciting, and confident speaker before any audience. Therefore, speaking itself will not be the only topic we study. The communication process, speech writing and rhetorical analysis are all part of making you an effective communicator.

### Major topics we’ll be covering...

<i>Speech Composition</i>	<i>the Great Speakers</i>	<i>Delivery skills</i>
<i>Speech Anxiety</i>	<i>Informative Speaking</i>	<i>Persuasive Speaking</i>
<i>Crisis Communication</i>	<i>Group Communication</i>	<i>Ceremonial Speaking</i>
<i>Gender Communication</i>	<i>Interpersonal Communication</i>	<i>Impromptu Speaking</i>

### *For this class, you will need....*

1. A notebook (preferably with pockets or rings for handouts). See me by the end of the week if you need one.
2. A writing utensil – which should accompany you to class every day.
3. A willingness to take risks and succeed!

## Class Information / Policies

**Respect is the foundation of a Public Speaking classroom!!** Without respect for your studies and for your classmates' studies, we all lose a potentially enriching and rewarding experience.

1. Promptness to class is a **MUST**. If you happen to be late on a speech day, please wait outside the door (in a nondistracting manner) until the speaker has finished.
2. Remember, communication is a *transactional* process. Respect for your classmates is required at all times, especially during presentations. Disrespect via inattentive or rude behavior will not be tolerated and can effect your grade.
3. In order to promote fairness in grading, late assignments are evaluated with a more specific mindset – especially late presentations; after all, more time was afforded in the preparation and polish of the assignment.

### **Just a note...**

Public Speaking can be a very intimidating experience. Just as a sport or hobby may take time and practice to master, so does the art of *oratory*. Martin Luther King Jr. and John F. Kennedy worked diligently to perfect their speaking styles; this class is the first step toward that direction!

Set personal goals with each assignment to conquer. We will start with “little steps” (smaller and lower-weighted assignments) towards the end of the semester when you should be making “great strides” in your speaking and communication styles. Just focus on improving with each assignment; only with determination will success follow.

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**In case you have questions regarding the course, an assignment, etc...**

**Mr. Yastremski's**

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*“There is a power in the spoken word. No image resonates longer or more vividly in the human mind than the picture painted by a well-crafted phrase. It is a power to inspire great good or inflict great harm. Oratory in America during the twentieth century seems to have captured it all.*”

Senator Robert G. Torricelli