

COMM 415
Public Speaking Option
Dr. Hest

Public Speaking **Persuasive** Assignment: You may present a 6 - 8 minute persuasive “opinion” speech on an **education** (or related to your profession) subject. Select something that will be interesting for your listeners and a topic that will target a change in opinion or behavior as you will not change anyone’s beliefs or values in a few minutes.

You will follow the attached outline format with an appropriate introduction, body, and conclusion. You will utilize at least three outside sources and submit a typed outline and bibliography. Include an effective visual aid and strong oral and physical delivery. You should sound persuasive and include persuasive language choices. Don’t rush. You and a partner may opt to present pro/con speeches.

Possible persuasive topics: Focus on an issue associated with technology in the classroom (e.g., the impact on relationships, focus, learning); Technology costs or lack of teacher training to effectively use technology; Allowing non-degreed individuals to teach because they have life experience on a topic; Preventing teacher burnout (where have all the teachers gone?); The issue of teachers selling lesson plans online; Rising numbers of ESL students and a lack of resources; Why college professors should have some education/methods training; Does in-school suspension work?

OR Public Speaking Informative Assignment: You may present a 6 – 8 minute informative briefing speech (update) on a current trend, ideas, suggestions in education or on career preparation and opportunities/outlook for language arts teaching jobs (or other). You will utilize at least three outside sources and submit a typed outline (following the attached format) and bibliography. Include an effective visual aid and strong oral and physical delivery. Your vocal delivery should have energy and you should utilize descriptive language choices. Be careful not to rush. You may also present an informative training (teaching) speech in which you teach us a skill that we may use in our education career in some way. We should be actively involved in the presentation and be able to actually “try” what you are teaching us.

If you do the assignment with a partner, you may divide the speech as you wish, but both should speak about equal time, you should have a total speaking time of 10 - 12 minutes, and you should have at least 6 total sources.

Possible informative topics: “Tapping” in the classroom; Creative ways to teach about bias; How will the students you will be teaching differ from what you were like at that age?; What NOT to wear to school/work; How to have the BEST classroom in the building; Where the jobs in CA/L will be in the next 3 years.

You must submit a typed outline BEFORE CLASS BEGINS on the day that we present speeches. You must follow the required structure listed below.

*You will speak from ONE side of a single page of paper (not a notebook, notebook paper, a half sheet, or a scrap of paper). Do not put your speech on the laptop to read from – we can tell you are reading from the screen and the eye contact is not natural. You don't have to dress up for the presentation, but please don't wear a cap, jacket, torn jeans, or sweatpants when you are presenting. You may also be seated if you wish (because of Zoom). If you do so, don't have your face too close to the laptop. Sit back a bit so that you can have some gestures.

Required Outline Structure:

- I. Introduction: *Most/all of the introduction will be on here
 - A. Attention-Getter: (Do not say “my topic is”)
 - B. Listener Relevance/Significance: (why we should care)
 - C. Thesis Statement: (One sentence statement of topic)
 - D. Specific Preview: (Specific list of your 2-4 main points)

- II. Body of the Speech: *Written as an outline
 - A. Main Point: Two - three main points listed as complete sentences
 - 1. (At least two supporting points for each main point)
 - 2.

Transition:

- B. Main Point
 - 1.
 - 2.

Transition

III. Conclusion:

- A. Summary: (A specific list reviewing your main points)
- B. Clincher: (A closing statement linked back to your intro if possible. NOT “thank you”)

References: (Follow APA or MLA format)