

Naples American High School

Course Syllabus

Course Name:	Speech [9-12]	Course Description DoDEA Course Description Web Site
Textbook:	Speech for Effective Communication	
Teacher Name:	Mr. A.	
Phone Number:	629-4516	
Planning Periods:	5 & 6	
Location:	Room 203	

Philosophy

The primary goal of this class is to build student skills in the areas of speaking and listening. We will examine the theories governing communication and then put them to work. Students will follow the basic procedures of designing a speech, rehearsing the speech, presenting the speech to the class, and analyzing the activity in either oral or written format.

Material

Students are provided with the text in the classroom.

Grading Policy

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

Assessment

Individual assignments receive individual grades, and these are entered into the school's electronic gradebook program. Grades for a particular assignment may be curved, which allows me to flex the assessment when a class performs below expectations. For the later units on "democratic process," "Parliamentary procedure," and "readers theatre," some grades will be group grades, in that one grade will be given to the group in evaluation of their group dynamics.

Once entered, the grades are weighted in one of three "bins": daily work @ 30%, presentations @ 35%, and compositions @ 35%.

Each month, the student can receive an extra-credit 100% in the daily work bin if s/he returns a signed progress report for this course.

Homework

Homework most often takes the form of reviewing notes, planning out a speech, and practicing the speech. This is a class which encourages students to push their working

voacubary, so parents can help out by suggesting strong words and phrases. [Did you know that in American society there is a proven direct correlation between an individual's vocabulary level and her or his income level?] All of these speeches are multi-session activities and require out-of-class planning and prep before the in-class presentation.

Writing activities will always involve the student moving to the evaluative phase and reflecting on a recent speech, and guidelines will be provided for the paper.

Late Work Policy

Work is always due no later than the assigned due date.

"Missing work" receives a rating of zero% until handed in; this really hurts the grade average for that bin. If the student has an excused absence, then full credit is possible once the activity is completed. Not having one's individual videotape for in-class recording of the speech is not a valid excuse.

"Late work" is always accepted, but this earns a maximum grade of 55%.

Tutoring/Extra Help

This requires advance arrangement, involving the student and the teacher. Seminar passes are generally available but must be requested before the seminar period begins, as per school policy.

Classroom Management

Students are expected to come to class on time with all materials needed for success in this course.

Students are assigned a seat, and this is where they should be unless re-grouped for an activity; assigned seats will change, but the teacher makes the changes.

The school handbook for students and parents discusses both desired and inappropriate behaviors and spells out the consequences for problem behaviors.

Content Outline

Our goal is to present nine speeches this semester, and each speech will be the subject of a reflective paper. Speeches will fall under the general categories of "interviewing," "speaking to inform," "speaking to persuade," "speaking to entertain," "group discussion," "Parliamentary procedure in action," and "oral interpretation." [These concepts are covered in the text in chapters eight, eleven, fourteen, fifteen, seventeen, nineteen, twenty, and twenty-one.] If time allows, I would also like to include a final unit on radio and/or television and have groups create and present segments.

Additional Information

1. Each student needs one videocassette for this course. The cassette is to be given to the teacher, and then it will be used to record all graded activities. The student can take the tape home and use it to analyze her or his speech and also share the activity with the family. However, the tape needs to be returned to the teacher so that it is available for class use and for the taping of the next activity. At the end of the class, the tape will be returned to the student.

2. Our school has been using the "6+1 writing traits" program for a few years now, and

the traits of Organization, Ideas, Conventions, and Word Choice are of particular importance in this course.

3. Please make sure that the school has an accurate eMail address for your family, as this is becoming the most efficient way to communicate with parents. Please feel free to send me a short message just to make contact and confirm that we are able to get in touch with one another via the internet.

Standards

[DoDEA Curricular Standards Web Site](#)