

Wallenpaupack Area School District

Planned Course Curriculum Guide

High School Fine Arts Department: Theatre

Name of Course: Public Speaking

Course Description:

Do you aspire to greatness? Knowing how to present in public is essential for most collegiate programs and careers. This course will teach students how to speak clearly and project their voices safely. Other areas of study include commanding an audience's attention and strategies to calm nerves/keep your focus.

Initial Creation Date (if applicable) and Revision Dates: 6/3/26

Wallenpaupack Area School District Curriculum	
COURSE: Public Speaking	GRADE/S: 9-12
UNIT 1: Basic Public Speaking Skills	TIMEFRAME: 1 week (5 blocks)

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS: C.C.1.5.9-10 or 11-12 A-G

- UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS):**
- Identify important skills for effective public speaking
 - Observe and analyze great public speakers
 - Create a toolbox of effective public speaking skills

- INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES:**
- Watch great speeches
 - Critique/take notes
 - Identify important skills through discussion/note taking
 - Identify own weaknesses, insecurities, fears
 - Create toolbox for effective public speaking
 - Discussions throughout

- ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative):**
- In-Class Discussions
 - In-Class Participation
 - Toolbox

- DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Acceleration/Enrichment):**
- Research more ways to improve public speaking skills
 - Read more articles from coursework
 - Additional worksheets from class books

- RESOURCES (Technology Based Resources, Text Resources, etc.):**
- *Public Speaking for Teens: How to Write a Speech, Learn to Debate, Speak with Confidence, and Overcome Your Fears!* By Jamie Myers
 - *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* By Sean Covey
 - *How to Talk to People for Teens Workbook: Exercises and Prompts to Master 21 Conversation Skills and Become a Social Superstar (The Confident Teen)* By Katherine Wilson

KEY VOCABULARY: Social Muscle Memory, Overthinking, 3 Second Rule, Instinctive Reactions, Connection, Emotional Grounding, Boundaries, Recovery, Resilience, Self-Deprecation, Paradigms, Principles

Wallenpaupack Area School District Curriculum	
COURSE: Public Speaking	GRADE/S: 9-12
UNIT 2: Reducing Nerves, Creating Calm	TIMEFRAME: 1 week (5 blocks)

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS: C.C.1.5.9-10 or 11-12 A, E, G
<p>UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify personal fears and weaknesses • Learn various breathing techniques, meditations, mindfulness exercises • Learn focus strategies and tips on effective eye contact, rate of speech, articulation, and volume • Add to/Create personal toolbox to include the strategies that work best for the individual student based on their personal needs.
<p>INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion/Journal on personal weaknesses and fears • In-Class Exercises on breathing techniques, meditations, mindfulness exercises • In-Class Exercises on effective eye contact, rate of speech, articulation, and volume • Creation/Addition to Personal Toolbox with helpful strategies for breathing techniques, meditations, mindfulness exercises, effective eye contact, rate of speech, articulation, and volume
<p>ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Class Participation • Personal Toolkit • Discussion
<p>DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Acceleration/Enrichment):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research more ways to improve public speaking skills • Read more articles from coursework • Additional worksheets from class books
<p>RESOURCES (Technology Based Resources, Text Resources, etc.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Speaking for Teens: How to Write a Speech, Learn to Debate, Speak with Confidence, and Overcome Your Fears!</i> By Jamie Myers • <i>The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens</i> By Sean Covey • <i>How to Talk to People for Teens Workbook: Exercises and Prompts to Master 21 Conversation Skills and Become a Social Superstar (The Confident Teen)</i> By Katherine Wilson

KEY VOCABULARY: Social Muscle Memory, Overthinking, 3 Second Rule, Instinctive Reactions, Connection, Emotional Grounding, Boundaries, Recovery, Resilience, Self-Deprecation, Paradigms, Principles, articulation, projection, mindfulness, meditation, rate of speech

Wallenpaupack Area School District Curriculum

COURSE: Public Speaking

GRADE/S: 9-12

UNIT 3: Attacking the Speech

TIMEFRAME: 3 weeks (15 blocks)

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS: C.C.1.5.9-10 or 11-12 A-G

UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS):

- Identify topic
- Creation of speech
- Creation of Visual Aid
- Analysis of own work
- Constructive critique of classmate work

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES:

- Choose a topic/write a speech
- Create notecards for speech
- Create a visual aid for speech
- Practice/aid another classmate in practicing/perfecting the speech
- Present speech to the class
- Evaluate your speech presentation

ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative):

- In-class participation/work
- Written work: speech, note cards, visual aid, evaluation
- Presentation

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Acceleration/Enrichment):

- Research more ways to improve public speaking skills
- Read more articles from coursework
- Additional worksheets from class books

RESOURCES (Technology Based Resources, Text Resources, etc.):

- *Public Speaking for Teens: How to Write a Speech, Learn to Debate, Speak with Confidence, and Overcome Your Fears!* By Jamie Myers
- *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* By Sean Covey
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Wallenpaupack Area School District Curriculum

COURSE: Public Speaking

GRADE/S: 9-12

UNIT 4: Mock Interviews

TIMEFRAME: 3 weeks (15 blocks)

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS: C.C.1.5.9-10 or 11-12 A-G

UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS):

- Creation of Resume`
- Identification and Practice of effective interview skills
- Identification and Practice of effective interview answers
- Awareness of strengths/weaknesses
- Practice in adaptability, problem-solving

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES:

- Creation/Revision of Professional Resume`
- Identify and answer potential interview questions
- Practice of handshake, eye contact, greeting, introduction, and exit
- Practice of answer delivery
- Presentation of Mock Interview in class
- Self-Evaluation/Class Discussion

ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative):

- In-class participation
- Written Work: Resume` creation/revision, answering questions, self-evaluation
- Discussion
- Presentation of Mock Interview

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Acceleration/Enrichment):

- Research more ways to improve public speaking skills
- Read more articles from coursework
- Additional worksheets from class books

RESOURCES (Technology Based Resources, Text Resources, etc.):

- *Public Speaking for Teens: How to Write a Speech, Learn to Debate, Speak with Confidence, and Overcome Your Fears!* By Jamie Myers
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KEY VOCABULARY: Social Muscle Memory, Overthinking, 3 Second Rule, Instinctive Reactions, Connection, Emotional Grounding, Boundaries, Recovery, Resilience, Self-Deprecation, Paradigms, Principles, resume, Impromptu, Improvisation, Argument vs. Debate

Wallenpaupack Area School District Curriculum	
COURSE: Public Speaking	GRADE/S: 9-12
UNIT 4: Impromptu Speaking	TIMEFRAME: 1 week (5 blocks)

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS: C.C.1.5.9-10 or 11-12 A-G

UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS):

- Examine coursework thus far and identify continued personal weaknesses
- Practice varied speech situations with effective speech tools to assist
- Explore tactics, scenarios, and situations to prepare
- Evaluate personal success

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES:

- Using Personal Toolkit, identify areas of concern
- In-class activities to target areas of concern that still need practice
- In-class improvisational situations/impromptu speaking scenarios
- Discussion
- Self-Evaluation

ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative):

- In-class participation
- Impromptu speeches, debates, and discussions
- Class discussion
- Self-Evaluation

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Acceleration/Enrichment):

- Research more ways to improve public speaking skills
- Read more articles from coursework
- Additional worksheets from class books

RESOURCES (Technology Based Resources, Text Resources, etc.):

- *Public Speaking for Teens: How to Write a Speech, Learn to Debate, Speak with Confidence, and Overcome Your Fears!* By Jamie Myers
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