

Speech

Mr. Arias
Lexington High School
Room 811

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School: (308) 324-4691
Duration: January to May 2026

Text: The Art of Public Speaking by Stephen E. Lucas 12th Edition

Required Materials: Pencil, 1 subject Notebook, Ipad

This class is designed to give students the opportunities to improve their informal and formal speaking skills, gain confidence, develop personal interests, and share responsibilities for group projects. Students will have opportunities:

**to acquire listening skills,
learn fundamentals of oral presentation,
increase their vocabularies to word studies as it relates to speech,
prepare and present various types of speeches,
participate in group discussions,
experience platform reading and speaking,
receive an introduction to debate,
meet some of the challenges of performing through mass media,
and to develop interpersonal communications skills and poise.**

Throughout the semester students will be required to give at least seven formal speeches. These speeches are designed to give students experience in a range of speaking situations. Speech class is unlike many other classes in that it directly applies to students' lives both now and in the future. Public speaking skills are invaluable no matter what your profession or goals. Students will receive direct instruction on how to write speech outlines, present speeches, use visual aids, and make audience centered presentations. Students will know speech dates at least a week before the speech is to be given. Speech should be fun, but can be intimidating. The best way to ease the pressure of speech is to be prepared. Any student with concerns about giving speeches should see me at least 48 hours before the speech and we can discuss any concerns that may arise.

Learning Goals

- Develop speech preparation and presentation techniques, audience awareness and self-awareness.
- Cultivate poise and self-confidence.
- Become aware of personal speech habits and characteristics to increase your confidence.
- Improve posture, voice, diction and other mechanics of speech.

- Present a variety of speeches (informative, persuasive, demonstrative, special occasion, etc.)

Grading

In this class you get your grades the old fashioned way: you earn them! Quarter and semester grades will be based on a percentage of points earned on projects, assignments, quizzes, tests, and speech performances:

Project: 15%

Daily Work: 35%

Speech Performance: 50%

“Semester Test” Grade (will count 10% per semester)

– Q1 Grades + Q2 Grades = 90% of the First Semester Grade; Semester Test = 10%

– Q3 Grades + Q4 Grades = 90% of the Second Semester Grade; Semester Test = 10%

Attendance Policy/Expectations:

1. You are expected to come to class, on time, and to be in your seats before the bell rings.
4. Arrive on time for class. You should be in your assigned seat before the late bell rings.
Sponge activities should be completed in the first five minutes of class. Sponge activities must follow the proper format to receive full credit bi-weekly. (i.e. response to the warm-up assignment, objective, and the correct date)
5. Prepare for and engage in course related activities.
6. Complete assignments on time. NO EXCUSES.
7. Treat others with respect, and be a positive influence within the class.
8. Be organized.
9. Raise your hand to be recognized. NO UNNECESSARY TALKING.
10. Remain in your assigned seat until dismissed by the teacher.
11. Follow classroom rules/regulations in class.

Leaving class

1. You will only be allowed to leave class for materials that are crucial to that day’s work.
2. You will not be excused to go to the restroom. Please go before you come to class or after class is finished.

Late work policy

Each assignment in Speech class is important and bears weight to not only be successful in the given class but also to support the success of each student as he or she prepares to become an independent member of society. Thus, the following policy will be employed to serve this purpose:

>The due date: students may earn maximum credit based on effort and correctness, OR students may turn in all assignments before the given due date (this includes excused absences for activities, college visits, or prearranged appointments.)

>One day late: students may earn a maximum of 70% based on correctness and dependent on individual choices

>Two days late: no work will be accepted

*Simultaneously, the Lexington High School Student Handbook policies will be enforced (in regards to excused and unexcused absences) and is as follows:

Absences and Homework

Upon return from every absence or partial-day absence, students shall confer with their teachers about missed classwork:

*(a) students who are pre-excused from school should have all of their schoolwork completed and turned in to the teacher before leaving school unless special arrangements have been made by the teacher and/or administrator;

(b) students who miss school due to an illness or other unforeseen circumstance will be allowed two (2) days for each day absent – up to five days total – to turn in missed homework given during the absence; additional days may be allowed by the teacher and/or administrator for special circumstances;

(c) suspended students must have all homework completed within two (2) days after their “return date” to school, assuming all assignments during the suspension have been forwarded in due time to the student by the teacher during the suspension.

Behavior: Please make reference to the School Wide Agreements and Intervention posters in my classroom for an explanation of what is expected from you in class in terms of behavior.

1. You are accountable for your own behavior in this class.
2. If you misbehave, you will receive a verbal warning. If you continue to misbehave, you will receive a 30 minute detention for your behavior. If your misbehavior continues, you may be removed from the class for that day.
3. Misbehavior is defined by me as any type of behavior that interferes with the learning process in the classroom.
4. Misbehavior includes, but is not limited to, vulgarity in Spanish and/or English, lewd comments, name-calling and showing disrespect to the teacher and/or classmates.
5. Visiting web sites that I deem as inappropriate or not productive for the class will result in a loss of points with a punishment in accordance to school policy with regards to student use of the laptops.

Classroom protocol & Rules

*You should be working on your Sponge activity as soon as the bell rings. No talking while you work on your Sponge.

*Be ready to share with the class and be attentive as we move into the lesson for the day.

*Turn in your work

Behavior

RESPECT is given. Persons who come in and out of my room will respect others, themselves, the materials and equipment, and all other areas not previously stated.

TRUST is earned. Each student stepping into my room has my trust, but once trust is lost, it is difficult to earn it back.

Detention:

1. If you receive a detention for misbehaving in class you will be expected to show up immediately after school that day.
2. If you choose not to show up you can make up your 30 minutes the following morning no later than 7:30 A.M. Your detention does not start until you are in your seat.
3. Failure to make up time will result in one hour of owed time. If you do not make up your hour it will double to two hours and after that you will be turned in to the office.

Cell Phones: *Handbook for school policy* Let's not go there. Be smart or you'll lose from the start

Classroom hours: I can work with you from 7:15 AM to 7:50 AM or after school until 4:00 PM, each day of the week.

Ipads & Hardware:

This year we will be using Ipads to type and do a lot of our school work. You are responsible for following instructions given by the instructor in regards to your device: Specifically enabling the bluetooth connectivity and allowing the instructor to use the *Apple Classroom* app to share information (homework, class activities). This app will also be used to monitor progress and accountability (staying on task). You will receive three warnings if you are not following these directions: Next you may be sent to administration for further consequences.

Additionally, we will have a classroom set of keyboards that will be used in class and checked out on an overnight basis (checked out after school and returned before school the next day). Late fees may be given or you may be referred to administration if the device is not returned or returned broken.

These pieces of technology are here for you: to make your educational experience more wholesome. Don't forget.

------(CUTHERE)-----

Student Name (printed)_____

Student Signature_____

Parent Name (Printed)_____

Parent Signature_____

Date_____

The above signatures validate that my son/daughter shared this syllabus with me and we spoke about Speech and the expectations.

Las firmas anteriores validan que mi hijo / hija compartió este programa de estudios conmigo y hablamos sobre la clase de Oratoria y las expectativas.