ELL Speech Syllabus

Mr. Arias
Room 811
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Class Description

This course is designed to help English Language Learners become more confident and effective speakers in English. Everyone communicates, and everyone has ideas and experiences worth sharing. In this class, we will work on speaking **clearly**, **confidently**, and **thoughtfully**—even when English is not your first language.

Throughout the semester, students will practice both **formal** and **informal** speaking. We will focus on three main types of speeches:

- **Informative speeches**
- **Persuasive speeches**
- **Improvised / short response speeches**

These skills will prepare students for additional speaking activities later in the semester, such as the **Brown Bag Speech**, **Country Ambassador Speech**, **Award Acceptance Speech**, **Commencement Speech**, and **Tribute Speech**, as well as frequent short daily speaking activities.

Public speaking can feel intimidating—especially in a second language. Because of this, I will never ask students to do something I am not willing to model myself. I will demonstrate speeches, strategies, and mistakes openly. This classroom is a place for **practice, growth, and improvement**, not perfection.

Effort matters more than accent. Growth matters more than fluency. Students will be rewarded for trying, participating, and taking risks with English—even when mistakes happen.

Language & Learning Support

This course is designed with English learners in mind. Support will include:

- Sentence starters and speech frames
- Visual examples and models
- Partner and small-group practice
- Extra time when appropriate
- Opportunities to rehearse before presenting

Making mistakes is a normal and expected part of learning English. Students are encouraged to try, speak, and improve without fear of embarrassment.

Textbook & Materials

We will use ***The Art of Public Speaking*** **(12th/13th Edition) by Stephen E. Lucas** as a reference.
While the textbook language may be challenging at times, we will focus on **key ideas**, **examples**, and **practical speaking skills** rather than memorizing vocabulary. The book helps guide pacing and structure for the course.

Course Philosophy & Grading Approach

This class is built on **effort, growth, and communication**, not perfection. Grades reflect a student's willingness to:

- Prepare
- Participate
- Practice speaking
- Improve over time

Speech timing and organization will be practiced, but flexibility will be provided when language development is still in progress. Clear communication and effort are more important than exact timing or perfect grammar.

Students who consistently refuse to participate or disrupt the learning environment may see their grades affected.

Grading Breakdown

Grades are earned through effort, preparation, and participation.

- **Speech Performances:** 50%
- **Daily Work & Practice:** 35%
- **Projects:** 15%

Semester grades follow school policy:

- Quarter grades = 90%
- Semester assessment = 10%

Class Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Arrive on time and ready to work
- Complete daily sponge activities
- Participate respectfully
- Support classmates during speeches
- Use English as much as possible, even when it feels difficult
- Maintain a positive and respectful learning environment

Listening is just as important as speaking.

Attendance & Communication

Speech is a participation-based course. Being present matters.

If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to check in about missed work.
If a student is nervous or unprepared for a speech, they should speak with the instructor **at least 48 hours in advance** so support can be provided.

Late Work Policy

- **On time:** Full credit
- **One day late:** Up to 70% credit (depending on circumstances)
- **Two days late:** Generally not accepted

School policies regarding excused absences will be followed. Extensions may be granted when communication happens in advance.

Behavior & Technology

Students are responsible for behavior that supports learning and respect.
Cell phones and technology must follow school policy and should only be used for learning purposes.

Extra Support

Help is available:

- **Before school:** 7:15–7:50 AM
- **After school:** Until 4:00 PM

If you feel nervous, confused, or unsure how to improve—talk to me.
This class exists to help you grow as a speaker and communicator

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Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

The above signatures confirm that my son/daughter shared this syllabus with me and that we discussed the expectations of the ELL Speech class.

Las firmas anteriores confirman que mi hijo/hija compartió este programa de estudios conmigo y que hablamos sobre la clase de Oratoria para Estudiantes de Inglés y sus expectativas.