

Sheryl L. Miller Hosey
English Department
Council Rock High School South
Public Speaking Syllabus (2009-2010)

In this class you will be constantly working on the marketable skills of speaking, listening, reading, and higher-order thinking, as well as developing strategies for decision making, time management and studying. By working together I hope this can be one of the best English classes you've ever had. Beyond that, I hope to help you develop your success as a student and as an individual.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the focus of this course?** This course is designed to promote confidence in public speaking. To accomplish this, the incremental method is used. The course is also designed to improve your listening skills. You will be listening more than speaking, so you will have the opportunity to become a more attentive, careful, and astute listener.
2. **How does the incremental method work?** This method is based on chapters in the texts *Confidence in Public Speaking* and *Essentials of Speech Communication*. The skills needed for an effective speech are presented in steps. In each step there is a brief speech designed to practice that skill. The final speech employs all of the skills learned throughout the course.
3. **What materials are used in this class?** Students will take notes, read, and study handouts and book chapters. They should use a three-ring binder to keep materials organized because one chapter builds on the next, and the final exam is a cumulative test of all information learned in the course. Students should be prepared with note cards or an outline for each speech.
4. **Will there be a midterm and a final?** Yes.
5. **How many speeches will each student deliver?** Students will have up to twelve opportunities to deliver speeches, depending on the size of the class.
6. **What if I am absent on the day I am supposed to deliver a speech?** You will have some choice as to the day of your speech, so it is important that you make every effort to be present on your assigned day. If you are absent, you must give the speech the next day you are present (if there is time) or any day thereafter that I ask you to deliver it. The second and subsequent times you are absent for a speech day, you will not be given the opportunity to make it up unless you have a doctor's note. It will become an **automatic zero**.
7. **What if I am present but unprepared on speech day?** The first time you are unprepared, your grade will be lowered one level a day. As in the case of an absence, you will deliver on the following day present (if there is time) or any day thereafter that I ask you to deliver it. The second and subsequent times you are unprepared, you will not be permitted to make up the speech; it will become an **automatic zero**.

If you are having difficulty in this class, it is your responsibility to seek help. I am available Monday through Thursday after school in room 280 until 3 PM, unless otherwise noted on the board. You can e-mail me at any time (mh@millerhosey.com). I usually respond to e-mail Monday through Friday between 7 PM and 10 PM; I have no set times during the weekend, but I will check it before Sunday evening whenever possible. Check my Web site www.millerhosey.com for other help.

Grading:

Grades will be based on points earned. All points earned for tests, quizzes, in-class assignments, homework and speeches will be added to together for the marking period. The points earned versus the total points possible will determine your grade. **I do not round up; please do not ask.**

A+ =	97-100		
A =	93-96	C =	73-77
A- =	90-92	C- =	70-72
B+ =	88-89	D+ =	68-69
B =	83-87	D =	63-67
B- =	80-82	D- =	60-62
C+ =	78-79	F =	59 and below

Rules

1. **Be on time.** School policies for lateness will be followed.
2. **All CR South and school district rules will be followed in this class.**
3. All materials from other classes must be put away.
4. No hats, hoods, or gum while you are delivering a speech.
5. After someone delivers a speech, the class applauds his/her efforts. Politeness counts. No heads down or sleeping during other people's speeches---or your own, for that matter!
6. Cell phones are NOT to be used during class for ANY reason. To be clear: NO TEXTING during class.
7. Be polite. It will get you much farther in life than being rude.