

Public Speaking 101

Course Designed by: Madeline Morningstar



Course Description: Whether you're presenting to classmates, interviewing for college, or simply communicating your needs and ideas, confident public speaking is a skill that opens doors. In this course, you'll work with an NYU Tisch-trained speaker and performer to build genuine confidence in presenting yourself and your ideas. Through improvisation, scripted presentations, and argument development, you'll explore the fundamentals of rhetoric while discovering your own authentic speaking voice. By the end of Public Speaking 101, you'll be ready to present in front of any audience—not just competently, but proudly and with aplomb.

Learning Objectives: Students will develop confidence in both improvisational and prepared public speaking. They will understand the historical foundations and contemporary value of rhetoric, including the concepts of ethos, pathos, and logos. Students will learn to identify and articulate their own interests and expertise, construct persuasive arguments, and write effective presentation scripts. By the end of the course, students will be able to deliver polished presentations that authentically communicate their ideas to diverse audiences.

Names and Pronouns: If you use a different name or a different gender pronoun than the one under which you are officially enrolled, please let Ms. Morningstar know. Students are expected to respectfully refer to each other by their names and pronouns in class.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Public Speaking 101</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Course Overview</h3>	
Unit 1: Improvising with Confidence	
1	Introduction: Why Public Speaking Matters
2	“Hi, I’m an Expert In...”
3	Pick a Passion
4	5-Minute Presentation
Unit 2: Preparing for Excellence	
5	Script-Writing
6	Argument Development
7	Presentation Preparation
8	Final Presentations

COURSE SCHEDULE

Please be advised that the following schedule may shift to best address the needs and interests of our class.

Unit 1: Improvising With Confidence

1

Introduction: Why Public Speaking Matters

What are the goals, expectations, and plans for this course? What is rhetoric? Where do pathos, ethos, and logos come from? Why is public speaking such a valuable skill?

2

“Hi, I’m an Expert In...”

What do you know the most about? What makes something interesting to you and why might you want to share that with those around you? How does sharing your ideas make you feel?

1. [Rhetoric](#) by Thomas O. Sloane & Britannica Editors
2. [Women in the History of Rhetoric](#) by Kate Rich & Cheryl Glenn
3. [Experts May Have Influence, But What Makes An Expert?](#) by Daniel Newman

In-Class Exercise: Expert Introductions

3

Pick a Passion

How do we practice conciseness? How do we communicate what matters to us in

a way that will be interesting to others? Does it matter if we are interesting, and if so, how does that change what it means to be in community?

1. ["The Important" vs. "The Interesting": A Philosophical Look at What We Value](#) by A.J. Drenth
2. [The Power of Passion in Life](#) by @thevirgowriter
3. [The Power of Being Interested Rather Than Interesting](#) by Arie Hoogerbrugge

In-Class Exercise: [Save the Last Word for Me Protocol](#)

4

5-Minute Presentation

Does practice make perfect? Let's improvise!

DUE: Bring your presentation outline

In-Class Exercise: 5-minute presentations

5 -

Script-Writing

How do you prepare for a public speaking opportunity?

1. [10 Tips for Improving Your Public Speaking Skills](#) by Marjorie North
2. [From Script to Spontaneity: How to Make Your Public Speaking Come Alive](#) by Rebecca Williams

In-Class Exercise: How to write a script!

6 -

Argument Development

How do we approach difficult topics? Why does the strength of an argument matter?

1. [6 Active Listening Techniques](#) by Center for Creative Leadership
2. [Do I have any responsibilities and obligations?](#) in the Human Rights Guide

In-Class Exercise: [Four Step Refutation](#)

7 -

Presentation Preparation

Pick a presentation topic that excites you!

Presentation guidelines: Students will have 8 minutes to present on a topic of their choice. Your presentation should demonstrate your authentic voice, incorporate the rhetorical techniques we've explored, and reflect your preparation work.

In-Class Exercise: Script writing + partner shares

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Final Presentations

What did I learn? What will I continue to practice?

In-Class Exercise: Presentations + Feedback