

Speech Syllabus

Mr. Barham

Room #14

Email: nbarham@sd282.org

Welcome to Speech. It is often said that people fear public speaking more than any other challenge. The purpose of this course is to practice speaking in front of an audience, to identify and cite credible sources, and to recognize common rhetorical strategies. Many of your other high school (and eventually college) classes will require presentations, debates, and discussions. Speech makes those assignments easier by providing a framework that can be used as the starting point for almost any presentation.

Classroom Rules:

- **Your grade is your responsibility.**
- I will treat you with respect, so you will know how to treat me.
- Feel free to do anything that doesn't cause a problem for anyone else.
- If you cause a problem, I will ask you to solve it.
- If you can't solve the problem, or choose not to, I will do something.
- What I do will depend on the person and the situation.
- If you feel something is unfair, discuss it with me after class.

Required Materials:

- Pen or Pencil
- Class Notebook
- School-issued Laptop

Grading

Tardies – 10%

For most students, big tests and important presentations or projects seem like the scariest items on the grading list. Really, the hardest part is being in class, on time, and with the proper materials. Showing up unprepared will not keep you from losing points (1% per tardy).

Assignments - 20%

Though the course is designed to help you practice and improve your presentation skills in front of an audience, there are some assignments that do not fall into this category. Works Cited pages, feedback sheets, and short response writing are sometimes scored. When they are, they will be placed in this category.

Notebook

Every student will be provided with a classroom notebook for use only with this class. Some notebook assignments will be submitted using Google Classroom. If you are absent, you need to make sure you get any notes you missed, either from a classmate or from Mr. Barham.

Speeches – 70%

Over the course of the semester, you will present 6-8 speeches for the class. There will always be a significant amount of time dedicated to preparing, revising, and rehearsing. If you use your time wisely, there should be nothing to worry about. However, a student cannot pass Speech without completing the required speeches.

You must *complete* (earn a passing grade and meet the required duration) the 4 major speeches in order to pass: How-to, Informative, Persuasive, Manuscript/Debate.

Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated in this class. It is important that each student is doing his or her own work. Collaboration skills are more important than ever, and it will be clear when it is acceptable to get help from others. However, students caught cheating will receive a zero on the particular assignment and will be held to the school cheating policy.

Late Work

Major assignments in Speech usually require a scheduled presentation date. For the class to function properly, students with speeches scheduled need to be in class and ready to give their speeches, including any props or materials required. Late speeches will receive reduced credit and students may have to arrange before/after school presentations in certain situations.

Student Responsibility Statement

Please read, sign, date, and get your parent/guardian's signature:

We understand that parents, students, and teachers must work together to provide the best education possible for each student. We have reviewed and understand the classroom information and grading policies. We specifically note that student responsibilities include:

- Regular attendance in class.
- Behavior that helps to provide the best learning environment for all.
- Bringing all required materials to class—**including a fully charged laptop each day.**
- Completion of assignments and participation in class.
- Arranging for and making up all missing work within the allowed time following an excused absence.

Student: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

