

Public Speech Training Camp

Larry Balfe, Instructor

The fear of public speaking is incredibly common, which means that only a handful of students in any given classroom will feel comfortable enough to voice their true opinions, let alone give a full-scale persuasive speech. But as the world becomes increasingly more complex, students that take a public speaking course will find they are far better prepared for life than those who don't. Here are five exceptional benefits of public speaking for kids:



1. Improved academic performance in other classes.
2. Listening skills will increase.
3. Courage to voice opinions and influence others for good.
4. Public speaking empowers you to overcome fear.
5. Preparation for the future.

We will be exploring a variety of topics in class and creating speeches for them. Research varies depending on the type of topic and style of speech.

We cover serious social issues, humorous and thought provoking subjects and speeches that are personal to the students and their generation. We will learn the structure of speech which is very similar to that of research papers and college essays. There are many valuable techniques taught in the class to organize and present with complete confidence!

The wealth of benefits provided to today's students who take courses in public speaking are highly desirable as the understanding, communication skills, and confidence gained transfer to all areas of life!

Course Description

In the class, students will learn the following:

1. Students will learn how to obtain information quickly through reading, find information, and then delve into the skills of an issue, and organize the searched information to further develop their own arguments.
2. The course will teach students how to write a speech that will stand out and attract the attention of the audience.
3. During the course, students will have the opportunities to develop communication and debating skills, including public speech, communication skills, and critical thinking.
4. The course will combine lectures, presentations, and competition exercises to prepare students for future debate competitions.

5. In future career development and college application, presenting your skills is extremely important, and the course will help students practice how to communicate in different situations to make themselves different.

6. This course is suitable for students who want to participate in lectures or debates and introduce competitions / projects. These include the Illinois Congressional Debate Association, the Illinois High School Association, and the National Speech and Debate Association.

Instructor Bio:

Larry Balfe has taught high school students in speech and debate for thirty years in Texas public schools. During that time, he has coached students who have won the Texas Forensic State Championship in Dramatic, Humorous, and Duet Acting. He has also coached many State finalists in Impromptu, Extemporaneous and Oratory. His students have also won the University Interscholastic League championships in Informative Speaking, Prose and Poetry Interpretations. He has coached several National Speech Top Ten students in Oratory, Humorous, Prose, Dramatic, Impromptu and Duo as well.

Since his early retirement from Texas public schools, Mr. Balfe has continued to work as a theater/speech consultant for local junior high and high schools, doing workshops and judging for the Texas One-Act Play Contest.

He is a Double Diamond National Speech and Debate Association and Texas Forensic Association Hall of Fame coach.

He has been teaching Public Speaking at Ray Chinese School for the past two and a half years. Larry believes in the power of public speaking.

He has been helping students find their voice and to speak up for over thirty years. His philosophy is that everyone can become a focused researcher, strong writer and confident public speaker. Even if you have had a speech class before, we will be exploring new topics, new kinds of speeches and new experiences in the world of Public Speaking!

Message from Larry:

“Teaching is my life. I believe the qualities and skills of public speaking which assists all students in becoming better communicators in any avenue they wish to pursue in life. Finding your voice and understanding reading, writing, and research will strengthen their skills, so that they can understand and advocate and become vocal in whatever field they choose to pursue.”