

Public Speech Training Camp

Larry Balfe, Instructor

This past year has seen many changes in communication. Virtual classes present unique opportunities for students. Zoom meetings for parents are becoming the norm. Adapting to this new environment is essential. Expressing views, presenting information and joining group discussions has never been more important!



Speaking in front of others is something that every child will encounter throughout their life. Whether it's reading a book report to their class, interviewing for their first job, or presenting to an important client during their career, being able to speak to the public or a group of people confidently is a vital asset they will need throughout their life. Some children are naturally outgoing, but others are shyer requiring help to give them confidence to speak to others without anxiety or fear. This is where a public Speaking class can help!

Confidence is not something that comes overnight. Confidence needs to be instilled from a young age and nurtured throughout life. Little things can grow great confidence in children, such as being able to order their own meals, encouraging them to have some time to discuss the events of their day at dinner, and allowing them to do things on their own even if you know they will make a mistake. Public Speaking gives young people the opportunity to build confidence by creating and presenting a variety of speeches that will give them skills they will use in many other classes!" Ray Chinese School Speech and Debate club will offer following two summer Speech training camps:

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.”

Schedule :

SESSION 1: 06/12-07/16 Tue. Thurs. 1:00PM-2:45PM (Gr.4-6); Total: 20 hours.

SESSION 1: 06/12-07/16 Mon. Wed. 1:00PM-2:45PM (Gr.7); Total: 20 hours.