



# INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC SPEAKING

## Syllabus

Journey Middle School  
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 Madison, AL 35758

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<b>Course Description:</b>	Students will participate in activities preparing them to speak effectively. Students will gain confidence, poise, and self-esteem. This course will include practice in vocal skills, organization, persuasion, and argument. Activities may include informative and persuasive speeches, readings from literature, and an introduction to debate.
<b>Course Objectives:</b>	Students will learn how to be in front of an audience, learn strategies to overcome performance anxiety, and learn how to organize and deliver various types of speeches.
<b>Classroom Expectations:</b>	Classroom Rules and Procedures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be on time, on task and prepared to learn.</li> <li>2. Respect the teacher, the classroom, other students, and yourself.</li> <li>3. Be responsible for your own learning.</li> <li>4. Clean up after yourself and your classmates.</li> <li>5. Keep all personal electronics PUT AWAY.</li> </ol>
<b>Grading:</b>	Test grades will account for 60% of the 9-weeks grade, with the remaining 40% being determined by daily grades. The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F (below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Please make sure all absences are excused as class work can be made up and graded for excused absences only. Work submitted after the deadline will count for half credit.
<b>Make-up Work:</b>	Under normal circumstances, it is expected that students will submit <u>previously</u> assigned work upon return to school after an excused absence. All work missed on the day(s) of excused absences must be made up within a timeframe determined by the teacher. <b>It is the responsibility of the student to ensure he or she makes up work following excused absences. Students will not receive credit for and will not be allowed to make up any assignments, tests, work, activities, etc., missed during unexcused absences.</b>
<b>Late Work:</b>	For work turned in late, the following policy will apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The assignment will drop one LETTER grade for each school day that passes. For example, if an assignment is turned in one school day late, the highest a student can receive is 89%; two days late, 79%, etc.</li> </ul> 1 day late = maximum credit 89%; 2 days late = maximum credit 79% 3 days late = maximum credit 69%; 4 days late = maximum credit 59% 5-10 days late = maximum credit 50% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Half credit is always better than no credit! Until work has been made up, "Missing" (which counts as a zero) will be put in the grade book. This will be updated once work is completed and turned in.</li> </ul>

<b>Accommodations:</b>	Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.
<b>Turnitin Notice:</b>	<p>The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. The primary focus of this software is to help students become better writers and scholars. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively – skills essential to all academic work.</p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers have the opportunity to view the student's originality report and grade accordingly.</p>
<b>Technology</b>	<p>Concerning laptop utilization:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities.</li> <li>2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers.</li> <li>3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops.</li> <li>4. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.</li> </ol>
<b>Materials and Supplies:</b>	Charged computer, 3-pronged folder with filler paper, Pens and Pencils, Highlighters, Index cards
<b>Course Outline</b>	<p>Week 1: Classroom Procedure/Expectations, Ice Breakers  Week 2: Nonverbal Communication, Effective Listening  Week 3: Introduction Speech/Bad Speeches  Week 4-5: Infomercial Speech  Week 6-7: Demonstrative Speech  Week 8-9: Impromptu Speeches</p>