

LESSON PLANS

INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC SPEAKING

This Public Speaking Contest kit aims to provide a series of activities to introduce public speaking into the classroom. One approach to integrating language learning into the curriculum is to emphasize interdisciplinary processes. The use of oral skills is one of the most successful of these processes. Here are some objectives that can be achieved through this process:

- apply language skills throughout life;
- understand the connections between listening, speaking, reading, writing, and observing;
- effectively conduct research;
- employ higher-order thinking abilities such as analysis and synthesis;
- improve language through active participation in conversations;
- use language to communicate ideas, feelings, knowledge; and
- contribute to social and personal development.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES IN PUBLIC SPEAKING

Among other things, it has been proven that oral skills have a great impact on obtaining a job and a promotion. However, if we research fears and phobias, it is quite surprising to see that public speaking is the greatest fear. Here are some activities to help your students develop their oral communication skills and excel in public speaking.

FIRST ACTIVITY

DISCUSSION FOR AN INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC SPEAKING

Objective:

En discutant de l'art oratoire, les élèves comprendront mieux les comportements nécessaires à la reproduction de leurs propres expériences de prise de parole en public. By discussing public speaking, students will better understand the behaviours and techniques necessary to reproduce their own experiences for public speaking.

Estimated time: 20 to 25 minutes

Materials: Discussion questions

Key points: Discussion questions

- Who makes a living by speaking? What can you say about their speaking skills? Possible answers: radio advertisers, talk show hosts, teachers, politicians, journalists, actors, comedians, police officers, etc.
- Why is it important to speak to others? Possible answers: to be understood, to exchange ideas, to express one's thoughts, etc.
- When might you need to speak to more than one person at a time? Possible answers: class presentations, school meetings, public speaking contests, multiple job interviews, committee meetings, etc.
- What are the most useful skills for effective and professional communication? Possible answers: ability to express oneself clearly and concisely, being able to get to the point, avoiding jargon, helping the listener understand your perspective without creating opposition, etc.

Conclusion :

Summarize the answers to the questions. Ask the class for their opinion on public speaking. Describe the skills required to be a good speaker.

SECOND ACTIVITY

SPEAKING IN FRONT OF A SMALL GROUP

Objective:

Students will have the opportunity to give a short spontaneous speech in front of a small group. Students will draw a random topic to speak about. You can either choose all the topics yourself, or you can ask students to each suggest two or three.

Estimated time: 20 minutes

Materials: Pieces of paper for the topics

Key Points:

- Create small groups of 5 or 6 students.
- In each group, one student will have 1 minute to deliver a speech on a randomly drawn topic. We must give the student very little preparation time. Ideally, the student should draw a topic and immediately start speaking. The topics should be easy and inspiring to ensure a smooth activity.
- Each student will have 1 minute to give a speech. Therefore, it should take no more than
- 10 minutes for the entire group (5 or 6 students) to give their speeches.

Conclusion:

For the next 10 minutes, ask students to describe (either in small groups or in front of the whole class) their experience with impromptu speeches. Discuss with the students what they would like to improve or perhaps their strengths. (I think I can express myself clearly. I'd like to find ways to feel more comfortable speaking in front of others. All responses are welcome and appreciated.)

THIRD ACTIVITY

IMPROMPTU SPEECH IN FRONT OF THE ENTIRE CLASS

Objective:

Instead of giving a speech in front of a small group, students will have to do it in front of the entire class. You have the option of evaluating the results, but it is not mandatory: it's up to you. Evaluation can be done by peers, by the student themselves, and/or by the teacher.

Estimated time: 40 minutes

Materials: Pieces of paper and Cue cards

Key Points:

- Choose appropriate topics or ask the students to choose them (ask them to write them down the day before if you want to review them). Write each topic on a piece of paper that you will place in a container for the draw.
- After randomly drawing a topic, students will have 1 minute to prepare a 1-minute speech. The student will write their points on note cards during this time and place these cards on the corner of their desk. Ask students to listen to others' speeches instead of working on their own while other students are speaking.
- When the minute is up, signal to the student to stop speaking.
- Remind students that their speeches will be evaluated (if that's what you have decided) to encourage them to take the activity seriously.

Conclusion:

If time allows, discuss the students' experiences giving an impromptu speech in front of the class.

LAST ACTIVITY

PRESENTATION OF A WELL-PREPARED SPEECH

Objective:

Ask students to write, practise, and deliver a 3 to 5-minute speech that will be evaluated. Evaluation can be done by peers, by the student themselves, and/or by the teacher.

Estimated time: to be determined

Materials: Paper, pens, computer for research, library visit if needed, and cue cards.

Key Points:

In accordance with the guidelines for the Public Speaking Contest, students will choose a topic. Some students may find it difficult to choose a topic, so you may need to assist them. Ensure that the topic interests them and that they will have the opportunity to conduct the necessary research. Allocate class time for research or library visits in addition to time for writing and practising the speech. This activity can take several days or a few weeks. The duration of this activity is up to you.

Conclusion:

To organize the Public Speaking Contest in your class, you will need to review the CPF rules. Don't forget to contact your local CPF branch for proper instructions on how to proceed.