

HOW TO TEACH PUBLIC SPEAKING

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Abstract: *The objective of this article is to consider the process of public speaking teaching, some examples of activities the teacher could use during the lesson. The article makes special reference to the fact that being a good public speaker can enhance students' reputation and boost their self-confidence.*

Key words: *public, speech, audience, teacher, students, classroom space.*

ОСОБЕННОСТИ ОБУЧЕНИЯ ОРАТОРСКОМУ ИСКУССТВУ

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Аннотация: *в статье описывается процесс обучения публичному выступлению, приводятся примеры деятельности учителя во время урока. Авторы статьи акцентируют внимание на том факте, что ораторские навыки предоставляют студентам возможность укрепить репутацию и повысить уверенность в себе.*

Ключевые слова: *публичный, речь, аудитория, учитель, ученик, класс.*

A teacher has always wondered about how to teach students to speak freely in front of the audience. Of course the main process in teaching a foreign language is to make students learn the language itself, to be able to make up sentences, to communicate on different topics, and to write an essay if consider the purpose of knowing English by students in this country. But when students seem to speak English well enough, they want something more, more than just retelling a text, writing an essay or discuss different matters using the proper vocabulary.

Debates have changed the students in an amazing way, they are not afraid of the audience anymore, they know that a good command of a language is not enough to be a great personality in front of the public, but what about Public Speaking? What about the student being in front of a great audience who is waiting for some reasonable arguments and an orator that they will remember forever.

Communication is the process of sending and receiving a message, and it occurs whenever we express ourselves in a manner that is clearly understood [1]. The students are sometimes afraid of making mistakes, but the biggest problem for them is to speak in front of the class, that is the public for them. That would be the first skill for the teachers to encourage and to develop, speaking in front of the audience. The students are usually evaluated at the lesson that is why it is very important for them to know how they are evaluated.

First of all, communication consists of a sender, the one who transmits the message that is said or sent. The sender starts the communication process by using

words. Words are symbols they use to convey ideas. Words must clearly communicate to the listener the exact message someone is trying to convey. There is a receiver on the other side, who intercepts the message and then decodes, or interprets it. Feedback includes the reactions that the receiver gives to the message offered by the sender. When words are clearly put together, they build a solid communication system intended to communicate a specific message.

When making up a speech there are a lot of things that matter, first of all the entire message itself, because it is something that is going to get to people's minds, it has to satisfy their expectations and emotions. That is a great responsibility. Responsibility goes hand in hand with ethics, but what does it mean to be responsible?

Teachers encourage their students to become responsible for class assignments. Well, that is pretty the same when it comes to a speech. The students have to be responsible for the words they say, because the words mean something. They have to be answerable and accountable for their actions. If they are responsible, people can count on them. It is difficult to teach students Public Speaking during English classes, there is so much to be taught, there is a curriculum to be fulfilled and there is so little time sometimes.

Confidence is something that is learned during life. You cannot buy confidence or just borrow it from your friend. [4] The students are often of the public, they are afraid that they will not be understood, they will make mistakes or they will be judged, because they do not look very nice, appearance is also something that matters until you open your mouth. Many of us are petrified at the thought of having to speak in front of other people. Some even suffer from a phobia that involves the fear of being evaluated by others. They are even afraid to look stupid. The rates of the heart of a person, who is nervous being in front of public, can increase to nearly 200 beats per minute at the height of stage fright, nearly double the normal heart rate. One thing is true: Stage fright is real and affects countless numbers of people. It is up to us to teach the student that confidence.

Speeches have made people famous. The problem is to teach the pupil express their thoughts in an optimistic and positive way. Here you can come up with some examples of great personalities who influenced the world. On the one hand we can present the example of Nick Vujicic, who teaches people to be optimistic and never give up, to make the world a better place to live. On the other hand we have the example of Adolf Hitler, who was a powerful speaker, yet his words led to the deaths of millions of people during the World War II. It is not easy to practice speeches in the class that is why we have to take into account some of the following issues.

A proposed speech course should include, in some form or another, the following topics: The vocabulary of speech terminology. How to prepare a speech outline (with an appropriate introduction, body and conclusion). The key points of presentation, including the importance of eye contact, body movement and the voice. The roles of both the speaker and the audience. Identifying and categorizing different types of speech. How to judge and evaluate a speech.

By the way, how important is the role of the audience? Actually it is very important. You can have a good speech only if you respect the audience. The speaker

must respect the members of the audience and show a genuine concern for their thoughts and feelings. The students have to take into account factors like age, gender, background, education. [3] First they have to think about either the material is appropriate for this group, how they would feel if they were asked any question, if the speaker is giving any new information or if the material is too difficult or too easy.

Here are some examples of activities the teacher could use during the lesson: The activity performed with a whole class or only half a dozen students elected to actually make speeches on a given day. The lesson might be organized as follows: Divide the class into three equal groups. The first student presenting the speech will speak to the whole class who will act as the audience. At the end of the speech, one third of those students will be responsible for completing a student evaluation sheet. While that sheet is being filled in, another student can present his or her speech, but this time speaking to only two-thirds of the class. Again, at the completion of the speech, the students effectively rotate, so that at any one time, one third are completing and evaluating the previous speech, while two-thirds of the audience are engaged in the role of audience. [2] Peer evaluation is very important, it is even more important than a mark, because evaluating your classmates, makes you become better next time when you come in front of them. The students can also interview people in the streets, make some surveys and then come back into the classroom and present a speech based on some real facts that makes them feel so important, they feel they get involved directly into social problems.

A problem might appear when we give to students all these instructions so well, but when it comes to making up speeches, it becomes so difficult, it is like there are no words, so few ideas and facts to the point. We should all think about the importance of discussing things in the class, think critically, even the teacher should get involved in the discussion, expressing points of view. The students need examples. They need to see someone speaking in front of them. A perfect idea would be to show them a great famous speech, for instance that of Theresa May. We should discuss and consider what is that that makes the speech so effective and memorable. Students have to understand the fact that making good speeches also can help them in their career and even in their everyday life. The process of writing a speech is much like life. [2].

We have to organize it, bring evidence that has to be sorted; we have to sift everything that comes in our way. The choices that we make in our life, as we do in a speech, will certainly lead us to a result. Every time the students start a speech, they have to realize that their first words have to make the public want to listen. They have to find those words that would make everybody in the audience attentive and eager to listen. One of the best methods of gaining attention is asking a question, it doesn't just wake them up, but it also makes them active participants in your speech. It depends on the topic, for example at one competition our students participated, a student started his speech with an amazing question: "What makes you special?" It was obviously a very challenging question, because everybody suddenly felt very special in the audience and here comes the anxiety to find out how to raise your self-esteem, how to be confident.

Another way can be making references. The speakers can refer to a person in the audience, or even to a larger group, just they have to use good taste and not to refer to a person they barely know. Giving a Quotation, would be a great way to start a speech, it has to be very well chosen. Winston S. Churchill's quotations about public speaking are perfect, for example: "A good speech should be like a woman's skirt; long enough to cover the subject and short enough to create interest." – Winston S. Churchill. One of the most popular attention-getters is telling a story. Everybody loves stories and can be more persuasive than somebody's stories. The story has to short and straight to the point. The students have to learn that it is good to speak and share stories of your life, but the stories don't have to be too personal. They can be more interesting about other people, events, and so on. Whether pupils talk in a team or presenting in front of the class or school, they all have to speak in public from time to time. They can do this well or they can do this badly, and the outcome strongly affects the way that others think about them. This is why public speaking causes so much anxiety and concern. The good news is that, with thorough preparation and practice, they can overcome any nervousness and perform exceptionally well.[4] Even if your students need to make regular presentations in front of a group, there are plenty of situations where good public speaking skills can help them get ready and advance in their career and create opportunities. For example, the students might have to talk about their organization at a conference, make a speech after accepting an award. Good public speaking skills are important in other areas of life, as well.

We might be asked to make a speech at a friend's wedding or give a eulogy for a loved one. In short, being a good public speaker can enhance students' reputation, boost their self-confidence, and open up countless opportunities.

However, while good skills can open doors, the poor ones can close them. In a nutshell, from primary school children are told that in order to succeed in life they have to be the best at school, to have good grades at all subjects, to be responsible and hard-working. In other words from our first step in schooling we learn that everything we do needs content. And that is great! And where is the problem? The problem is that nowhere in school neither in gymnasium or lyceum stage, we are not told about the crucial importance communication has in our professional development. We teach the students the curriculum and we forget about the fact that we teach them for life. Sometimes it is better to leave aside for a while grammar and pay more attention to the way the can express themselves on a specific topic or problem. Give your students a chance to feel leaders, presidents or simply VIPs. The teachers should not forget that every student is a personality and since we teach individually and interactively why not to role play a president's speech or just a speech to encourage a nation. A great idea would be to organize local public speaking competitions, students would appreciate it.

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