



Activity 2.1.3 Speak from the Heart

Purpose

Public speaking is frightening for many people. Often this fear comes from the unknown. *Will people laugh at me? Will people think I am smart? Will I trip walking in front of these people? Will I stutter?* These are all valid concerns. However, with practice and preparation, giving a speech does not have to be so frightening.

Materials

Per pair of students:

- Children's storybook

Per student:

- 5 note cards
- Pencil
- *Agriscience Notebook*

Procedure

You will be learning and practicing skills that will help you become a good speaker. Developing voice, expression, and presence are important steps to becoming an effective and confident speaker.

Part One – Developing Voice and Expression

1. Your teacher will provide you and your partner with a children's book.
2. Read a page quietly to yourself. Think of the words and how to use voice and expression to make the story interesting.
3. Now, read the page aloud to your partner using the characteristics of voice and expression to bring the writing to life.
4. Switch roles with your partner and listen to him or her read aloud.
5. Share three things your partner did well and one or two things he or she could improve on.
6. Your partner will share with you.
7. Read the next page to yourself focusing on how you can improve your voice and expression.
8. Read the page aloud to your partner.
9. Listen to the feedback from your partner.
10. Listen as your partner reads to you.
11. Continue switching back and forth until you finish the book. Take care to improve your voice and expression skills continuously as you read aloud. This practice will help you improve your public speaking ability.

Part Two – Having a Presence

1. Stand up facing your partner.
2. Square your shoulders and stand to your full height.
3. Smile, but try not to laugh.
4. Allow your arms to hang loosely at your side.

5. Take a deep breath and exhale.
6. Maintaining your posture, eye contact, and smile, say to your partner “I believe in the future of agriculture with a faith born not of words but of deeds.”
7. Allow your partner to repeat this back to you.
8. Rotate partners as instructed by your teacher and repeat Steps 1–5.
9. Maintaining your posture, eye contact, and smile, say to your partner “I believe that to live and work on a good farm is pleasant as well as challenging.”
10. Allow your partner to repeat this back to you.
11. Rotate partners as instructed by your teacher and repeat Steps 1–5.
12. Maintaining your posture, eye contact, and smile, say to your partner “I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others.
13. Allow your partner to repeat this back to you.
14. Rotate partners as instructed by your teacher and repeat Steps 1–5.
15. Maintaining your posture, eye contact, and smile, say to your partner “I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining.

Part Three – Becoming a Speaker

Researching and speaking about an unfamiliar topic may be challenging, so your task is to write a short speech about agriculture in your life. Your audience will be your classmates.

1. Brainstorm your three favorite agricultural things. They can be products, such as food and clothes; activities, such as chores and showing; or anything related to agriculture that you like. List your choices in Table 1.

Table 1 My Favorite Agricultural Things
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2. Think about your choices, how will you engage the audience? Will your speech be serious or humorous?
3. On one note card, write a three to four sentence description of why the first item is your favorite or important to you. You should continue to focus on engaging your audience. Write in complete sentences.
4. On the second note card, repeat Step 3 for your second item.
5. Write three to four sentences about your third item on the third note card.
6. You have just outlined the main points of your speech.
7. How will you introduce your main points? Write a two to three sentence introduction of your three topics on the fourth note card.
8. How will you conclude your speech? Write two to three sentences concluding your speech on the fifth note card.
9. Put your note cards in order starting with the introduction, then the three main points, and finally the conclusion.

10. Read your speech to yourself. Revise areas you would like to improve.
11. Read the speech quietly to yourself three times. Your speech should be approximately two minutes in length. If needed, make adjustments for time.
12. **For homework:** Practice saying your speech out loud once in front of a mirror. Emphasize voice, expression, presence and effect.
13. Practice once with your parents listening. Again emphasize using the characteristics of a good speaker.
14. Ask your parents for feedback regarding your ability to emphasize your voice, expression, presence, and overall effect.
15. Continue practicing the speech until you are comfortable and confident with the content and your presentation abilities. Refer to *Generic Speaking Evaluation Rubric* to self-evaluate your speaking ability.
16. Present your speech to the class when instructed by your teacher.

Conclusion

1. Why is voice and expression important when giving a speech?
2. How can having stage presence increase your effectiveness as a speaker?
3. What is the easiest part of giving a speech for you?
4. What is the most challenging part of giving a speech for you?