

# Public Speaking: Classroom Lesson Plan

## Lesson Topic:

Public Speaking Practice

## Lesson Objective:

Students will be able to present their ideas and thoughts clearly and understandably to the class using public speaking skills.

## Materials:

- Writing utensils
- Whiteboard, overhead, or chart paper
- Projector or other method to watch the video
- **Public Speaking Practice!**, enough for one per student

## Advanced Preparation:

- Preview the [video](#) before sharing it with your students [3:08].
- Make copies of **Public Speaking Practice!**, one per student.

## Warm-up Activity:

1. Ask, "Where do you use public speaking skills in your life?"
2. Direct students to turn and talk to a partner. Partners should work to think of as many situations as possible that require public speaking skills.

3. Bring the class back together and allow students to list possible situations. Ensure a variety of situations are covered including situations in school, at home, and with friends.
4. Ask, "Do you think you will need public speaking skills in your future career?"
5. Allow students to turn and talk to a partner. Then, call the class together to share students' ideas. Help students to identify public speaking requirements even in careers they may not initially view as requiring public speaking. *For example, a writer may be required to pitch their ideas to their colleagues or a publishing company, they may need to have one-on-one meetings with their agent, or be involved in book readings or book tours where they have to speak with the public.*
6. Ensure that students understand that public speaking is a part of life. Having strong public speaking skills will be beneficial now and in their future careers.

### **View the Video: "Public Speaking"**

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "Public Speaking".
2. Explain that the video shows role models describing the importance of public speaking and providing advice to help improve public speaking skills.
3. View the video together. Invite students to formulate questions or comments about the ideas discussed in the video and to be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.

### **Video Follow-up:**

1. Ask students to offer their questions, comments, reactions, and responses to the video.

2. Ask, "What pieces of advice did the role models offer that could help someone improve their public speaking?"
3. Direct students to turn and talk to a partner. Then bring the class back together to share student ideas. *Depending on student age and ability, this advice could be written down for reference on the whiteboard, overhead, or chart paper.*
4. Explain that students will have a chance to practice one or more pieces of this advice during the next activity.
5. Distribute the **Public Speaking Practice!** worksheets.
6. Allow students time to complete the worksheets. Circulate to assist.
7. Briefly share audience expectations for the presentations such as, "All students should sit quietly during each presentation," or "All students should applaud after each presentation."
8. One at a time, have students come to the front of the room to present their answer to their chosen topic. If desired, brief feedback can be given to each student on their presentation.
9. Use some or all of the following questions to conclude the activity. These questions can be used to hold a class discussion or assigned to students to answer individually on blank paper.
  - What went well about your presentation? What could have gone better?
  - Was it useful to think about what you wanted to say in advance? Why or why not?
  - Was it useful to rehearse or practice your presentation? Why or why not?
  - Were you able to successfully apply any public speaking advice from the video to your presentation? If so, do you think it helped you give a better presentation?



- What lessons or advice from this class session do you plan to apply to your public speaking in the future? Why?
10. Close the lesson by encouraging students to practice public speaking every chance they get. Remind students that they should start where they are, whether that is striving to volunteer more often in class or signing up for the school play. Public speaking skills are important today, and they will continue to be important in their future careers.



### Extension Activities:

1. Allow students to select additional topics from the **Public Speaking Practice!** worksheet and give more short presentations in front of the class. Students can also practice giving short presentations in front of other classes.
2. Put together a class play, set up a science fair, or organize a debate. There are many options to continue public speaking practice across the curriculum!
3. Use the "Related Questions to Explore" as discussion springboards or writing prompts to help students further explore public speaking.

### Related Questions to Explore:

- Why is it so important to have strong public speaking skills?
- What might happen if someone can't speak up in school? At work? With their family or friends?
- What advice would you give to a younger student that was struggling to speak up at school?
- Do you think someone could be a successful <doctor, teacher, CEO, news anchor, etc.> if they had weak public speaking skills? Why or why not?
- What steps could you start taking today to improve your public speaking skills?



## Public Speaking Practice!

Use the questions below to help you prepare to speak in front of the class. Be prepared to share **at least 5 sentences** explaining the answer to your chosen topic.

Topics:

- What is your favorite sport? Why?
- What was the best day of your life? Why?
- If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be? Why?
- What is your dream job? Why?
- If you could have one superpower, what would it be? Why?
- If you could be an animal, which animal would you be? Why?

1. Which topic will you speak about? (*choose only one*)

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2. What public speaking advice from the video will you focus on?  
(*For example, speaking slowly and clearly.*)

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3. Use the lines below to plan what you will say.

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*If you have extra time, practice by answering your topic question out loud a few times. Speak to a friend, the wall, or even a mirror! Rehearsing like this can make you feel more prepared and comfortable for your real speech in front of the class.*



## Ideas for Future Lessons/Activities Related to Public Speaking:

1. Public Speaking Skills: A Focus on Body Language, Eye Contact, and Tone of Voice
2. What Makes a Great Orator? A Spotlight on Powerful Historical Speeches
3. Educational vs. Entertaining: Can Presentations Be Both?
4. Public Speaking—It's Not All About Speeches! Music, Theater, Dance, and Other Forms of Public Performance
5. What Role Does Practice Play in Successful Public Speaking? Planning, Rehearsing, and More
6. Would You Rather...? Fun (and Funny!) Debates for Public Speaking Practice
7. Public Speaking Around the World: Cultural Differences in Communication Style
8. Community Interviews: How Do You Use Public Speaking in Your Career?