

Brunswick School Department
E.L.A.
Grade 12: Rhetoric and Public Speaking

Course Overview

Fundamental elements of rhetoric will be applied to expository prose, persuasive writing and formal oratory. As part of this endeavor, students will be called upon to analyze a selection of famous speeches along with other mediums of persuasion (radio, television, print journalism, poetry, short fiction, painting, music, etc.). Students will also give speeches and will peer-edit speeches.

Essential Understandings

- Rhetoric involves an array of persuasive strategies that can be analyzed through several different mediums.
- Effective public speaking requires an awareness of these rhetorical strategies.
- Effective public speaking requires an awareness of historical context and tradition – including well-known or otherwise exemplary speeches from the past or present.

Priority Standards and Performance Indicators

(as based on Maine Learning Results)

P.S ELA-2 Reading Analysis: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

- a. Evaluate the relevant themes and synthesize how they are present in the novel in oral and written responses.
- b. Interpret the implications of setting and circumstance.
- c. Analyze the role of characters in the plot in oral and written responses.
- d. Analyze important quotations from the text in oral and written responses.
- e. Annotate the text.

P.S ELA-3 Reading Craft and Structure Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness or beauty of a text.

- a. Understand SOAPS-STONE: Speaker, Occasion, Audience, Purpose, Subject, Tone
- b. Analyze the plot and/or design of the text, following shifts in time and place.

P.S ELA-4 Writing Analysis: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

- a. Select and limit a debatable thesis.
- b. Research evidence using credible sources.
- c. Select an appropriate organizational plan.
- d. Acknowledge alternate sides of a position.
- e. Apply the standards of English conventions.
- f. Apply persuasive strategies.
- g. Create a Works Cited for evidence used.

P.S ELA-5 Writing Craft: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

- a. Create an effective introduction.
- b. Use showing details v. telling details.
- c. Maintain a focus on the main idea throughout the body paragraphs.
- d. Write an effective conclusion.

P.S. ELA-7 Speaking and Listening: Engage effectively in a well-reasoned exchange of ideas

- a. Attentively listen to the words of a speaker.
- b. Summarize what someone has said.
- c. Defend, refute, or challenge the ideas of others.
- d. Use evidence to support a position.
- e. Organize ideas clearly and logically.
- f. Use annotations of the text to contribute to class discussion.

Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments

- Class contributions, including their original compositions and dramatic performances.
- Prepare and deliver a short speech modelled after a famous inaugural address such as Washington's first inaugural, Lincoln's second inaugural or Eisenhower's second inaugural.
- Prepare and deliver an editorial modelled after a published opinion piece that uses vetted facts and statistics to advance its argument.

Sample Texts and Materials/Resources

- *The World's Great Speeches* (4th enlarged edition) by Lewis Copeland
- *Rhetorical Devices: A Handbook and Activities for Student Writers* by Douglas Grudzina
- *Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student, 4th Edition* by Edward Corbett & Robert Connors
- *50 Speeches that Made the Modern World: Famous Speeches from Women's Rights to Human Rights* by Oswald Chambers