



Unit: Speaking
Skill 19: Presenting To A Group
Activity A: Public Speaking

Activity Skills:

Public speaking, small group discussion, feedback.

Leadership Skills:

Understand the basics techniques for making a brief public speech.

Suggested Level:

Beginning

Time:

30 minutes

Supplies needed:

- Paper
- Pens or pencils to write

Do Ahead:

- Make copies of worksheets

Source:

Developed by:
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Based On:
Speaking One-to-Many,
 Youth Leadership Institute,
 University of Arizona
 Cooperative Extension;

Podium Presence, Unlock
 Your Leadership Potential,
 University of Florida
 Extension

BACKGROUND:

It can be nerve wracking to speak in front of a group, but it is a necessary skill when leading a group. This activity will go through some of the basic considerations when you are making a public presentation, and help us all get a little practice giving a simple speech.

To review some of the basic considerations when speaking to a group see the worksheet guidelines.

WHAT TO DO:

Have participants name current events - they may be political, social or local, as long as they are recent and have been in the news. Write these down on slips of paper and place in a hat or bag. Have participants each pick a slip of paper with a topic – this is the topic they will be speaking about for their speech.

Depending on group size, students can work on their presentation individually for a few minutes and present to the whole group, or break into small groups of 3-4 and present to their small groups. The other members of the small groups then serve as advisors for how the person could improve their speech.

Use a timer or clock and have someone limit speeches to 3 minutes.

TALK IT OVER:

Reflect:

- Was this easy or difficult?
- Did you keep the physical and speaking considerations in mind?
- How would preparation have made a difference?
- Did you use vocal fillers like “um” more than you wanted?
- Did you get good feedback from your small groups?

Apply:

- How can you improve your speaking skills?
- What specific patterns do you need to work on as an individual?
- Why do leaders need to be able to speak effectively to a group?

BEYOND THE BOX:

Optional Homework:

Ask students to prepare a 3-5 minute speech on a topic of their choice. It could be a favorite hobby or another news story. Ask them to practice

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Notes:

at least 3 times and see how the speech changes after each presentation. If they can have a friend or family member watch them, or possibly record themselves, even better. For the homework, have students write a brief outline of their speech (showing the intro, main body points, and conclusion) and a paragraph about how the speech changed and what they learned with brief practice.

Resources and Web Links: