



Rhetoric 5-6 Syllabus

Course Goals

1 Public Speaking

Students learn how to prepare and deliver effective speeches.

2 Persuasion

Students create speeches that build persuasive writing skills.

3 Rhetorical Knowledge

Students gain an overview of the history of rhetoric and explore its various purposes.

Course Topics

1 Rhetoric Through the Ages

Students examine the history of rhetoric beginning with the Ancient Greeks and moving through American political history from the American Revolution to recent presidential elections.

2 Public Speaking

Students identify the qualities of a successful orator and practice public speaking skills, such as body language and word choice.

3 Media Slant

Students investigate the power of bias in shaping media coverage.

4 Propaganda

Students learn about the role of propaganda and advertising throughout political history.

5 Logical Fallacies

Students learn to identify, respond to, and avoid common logical fallacies.

6 Dialectic

Students learn how dialectic differs from rhetoric and explore the Socratic method.

7 Argumentation and Persuasion

Students learn how to construct strong arguments and deliver persuasive speeches.

8 Rhetoric in the Real World

Students explore the role of public speaking on the job.

Course Schedule

Day 1

Icebreaker

Students are introduced to one another and practice their public speaking skills.

Introduction to Rhetoric

Students are introduced to what rhetoric is and explore its beginnings in Ancient Greece.

Rhetorical Appeals

Students learn the three rhetorical appeals: ethos, pathos, and logos.

The Assembly

Students practice crafting and delivering persuasive speeches using the three rhetorical appeals.

Day 2

Public Speaking Purpose and Delivery

Students discuss the various purposes of public speaking and learn how to make delivery choices.

Media Slant

Students investigate the influence of bias on media coverage.

Day 3

Rhetoric Through History 1

Students practice delivery skills while examining famous rhetorical events.

Propaganda and Commercials

Students examine propaganda through history and learn about advertisement techniques.

Day 4

Logical Fallacies

Students learn to identify common logical fallacies and why they should be avoided.

Dialectic

Students learn the difference between dialectic and rhetoric and practice the dialectical method through a Socratic seminar.

Day 5

Rhetoric Through History 2

Students continue to practice delivery skills while examining famous historical speeches focused on inspiration.

Argumentation Day 1

Students learn how to craft arguments.

Day 6

Argumentation Day 2

Students learn basic refutation.

Panel Discussion

Students practice their argumentation skills in a panel discussion.

Day 7

Rhetoric Through History 3

Students examine a modern example of oratory and write their own speeches in the same topic.

Campaign Advertisements

Students examine the language and visual elements of campaign commercials.

Running for President

Students write speeches that implement the rhetoric of political campaigns.

Final Project Introduction

Students prepare, practice, and deliver a final persuasive speech.

Day 8

Mock Trial

Students explore the various roles of public speaking.

Final Project Check-in

Students prepare, practice, and deliver a final persuasive speech.

Day 9

Final Project Preparation

Students prepare, practice, and deliver a final persuasive speech.

Day 10

Final Project Delivery

Students prepare, practice, and deliver a final persuasive speech.

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Updated on 6/25/2016