

# Montclair High School

## Course Syllabus

**Department: English**

**Course: Speech and Communication**

**Level: Honors**

**Credits: 2.5**

### **Course Description:**

In this course, students will recognize and master the skills for effective speaking and listening. These include preparation skills such as topic selection, organization and writing as well as presentation skills such as the use of voice and visual speaking behavior. Students will present a variety of speeches and oral interpretations of literary works. Successful completion of this course will assist students in both college and career settings.

This course introduces students to the theoretical and practical requirements of different types of public presentations and helps students develop an understanding and appreciation of the dynamic nature of the communication process. The course focuses on the basic elements of the communication process, listening, communicator and audience characteristics, basic research skills, and message composition and delivery.

### **Standards:**

- W.11-12.1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- W.11-12.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- W.11-12.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- W.11-12.8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.
- W.11-12.9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- SL.11-12.1. Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
- SL.11-12.2. Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data.
- SL.11-12.3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.
- SL.11-12.4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing

perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks.

- SL.11-12.5. Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.
- SL.11-12.6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

**Anchor Text(s):**

None

**Supplementary Materials:**

Not applicable

**Units of Study:**

Informative Speaking

Persuasive Speaking

Oral Interpretation

Group Communication

Communication Theory

Listening

Message Preparation

Physical and Vocal Communication

**Proficiencies:**

By the end of this course, students will understand and develop:

1. Determination of Purpose
2. Organization of ideas.
3. Written and oral expression of ideas.
4. Effective physical and vocal delivery of ideas.
5. Development of self-confidence while communicating.

**Evaluation & Assessment:**

Homework and Classwork: 20% of each marking period grade.

Speech Presentations: 80% of each marking period grade.

Final Presentation: 10% of final grade