

Performing Language

Department: Speech and Language

Priority: Elective

Overall purpose of class:

This is an advanced level of the motor speech, articulation and facial exercise activities in the Motor Speech Class. The purpose is to provide an environment where students can increase inflexion, volume, creativity, facile thinking by performing poetry, stories, humorous oral motor exercises like tongue twisters and theatrical selections for each other. By critiquing and carefully observing each other they increase their awareness of their vocal mechanism. Performances at student body events increase self-esteem.

Number of classes held per week:

Once a week

Optimum class time:

No special time requirement

Instructor requirements:

1 with an assistant for demonstrating if possible

Number of students:

Up to 20

Student ability range and limitations:

Wide level of abilities possible, but speech is necessary.

Space and Equipment requirements:

Room and a few theater props. Need to gather a good selection of poetry and portions of scripts.

Student Needs to be met from the perspective of the instructor:

Staff suggests this class to those who in their evaluations shows a need to

- Utilize their speech mechanism to the fullest
- Increase vocal strength
- Increase intelligibility
- Build self-esteem

Typical Student Goals that lead to placement in the class:

- Students who used to perform and/or are naturally extroverted and want to perform request this class
- Students who have a love of reading and theater and don't want to lose touch with that interest request the class
- Students take this class if they want to improve vocal control and intelligibility.

Suggested Lessons and Activities:

Just as dancers warm up their bodies, students in this class warm up their vocal instruments. They learn to view their voice and body as an instrument and treat it carefully and with respect while pushing it's limits of production. This is high level motor speech with activities that support and enhance:

- Posture
- Breath support
- Expression
- Gesture
- Inflection
- Vocal range
- Vocal projection
- Improvisation
- Healing Humor

Students use professional materials or create their own and perform for each other. An important and empowering aspect of the class comes from the group's critiques and support. Students learn how to best use their vocal instrument by closely observing their peers.

Additional Detail Attached