

Art of Eloquence Christian FUNDamentals of Communication and Speech

Say What You Mean:  
A Creative Speech Course

**SAMPLE**

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# Course Outline

Introduction

Week 1: Impromptu-Introducing Yourself

Week 2: Impromptu-101 Uses of Duct Tape

Week 3: Prepared-Benefits of Having a Pet

Week 4: Impromptu-Dogs vs. Cats

Week 5: Prepared-The Power and Benefits of Prayer

Week 6: Impromptu-Defend A Controversial Statement

Week 7: Prepared-“(The love of) money is the root of all evil.”

Week 8: Impromptu-Unconventional Uses of Household Items

Week 9: Prepared-Contributions of an Invention

Week 10: Impromptu-Where Can You Find Treasure?

Week 11: Prepared-Most Important School Subject

Week 12: Impromptu-Things You Can Do with a Box

Week 13: Prepared-Describe an Era in History

Week 14: Impromptu-What’s Going on in the Pictures?

Week 15: Prepared-Interview with a Family Member

Week 16: Impromptu-Modernize a Nursery Rhyme

Week 17: Impromptu-How Old is Old?

Week 18: Prepared-Historical Figure Speech

Appendix: Certificate of Achievement for your records

# Introduction

Congratulations on your decision to further your study of effective communication by undertaking a subject that is feared by many: the SPEECH! It isn't as scary as it sounds, really! If you have taken our beginning courses *Say What You Mean* and *Know Your Audience*, you will be very familiar with the various skills necessary for making effective presentations. If you haven't taken these courses, this section will provide you with a summary of those skills.

The art of giving effective presentations will have a significant impact on your success both personally and professionally. Studies show that people who enjoy making speeches actually earn more money than those who don't! Being able to present yourself (and your ideas) well and being able to persuade others is essential in business. It is the sign of an effective and respected leader. It is also important on a personal level because being able to present yourself well in person will greatly assist you in making and developing good friendships!

If you have taken our beginner courses or if you have had prior exposure to speech skills, this will be review for you. If you have not had any exposure to these concepts, you will need to pay close attention to the following elements of a good presentation.

**Here is a review of the skills necessary for making a great presentation:**

1. Make eye contact with your audience. Don't look at the floor or the ceiling. Your audience isn't there!
2. Hold your head up high and speak boldly! God thinks you are pretty special, you should too!
3. Speak clearly and articulate your words so that your audience can hear and understand you.
4. Speak up so that you are heard. Speaking too softly can be frustrating to your audience.
5. Try not to say things like "um", "er", "like", "ya know", etc.
6. Try not to fidget or rock back and forth when you speak; it can distract your audience from what you are saying.
7. Try to make your voice sound animated and excited about who you are! God made you special...be proud of who you are!
8. Your teacher/parent will time you and let you know when you are getting close to the end of your speech. Try to keep talking until time is up, but do not go beyond your time limit.

9. Speak at a moderate pace. Not too fast that your audience can't quite catch everything you're saying, but not too slow so that your audience falls asleep on you either.

10. Elaborate a bit as you are talking. Give some specifics.

11. Remember that the idea of these exercises isn't to get through them, but to use the time wisely to present your ideas to your audience in such a way that your message reaches them as you had intended.

You will be working on each of these skills in every one of the 18 presentations you will make this semester. Each lesson is designed to build upon the next, however each lesson is designed to concentrate heavily on one of the eleven points outlined above. Your parent/teacher will grade you on your execution of each speech so that you may track your progress in each area as your skills improve.

Parents/teachers: use the grading chart for each speech that your student(s) perform. If you have more than one child, you might want to make copies of the chart before you begin. If you are teaching this class in a classroom setting, it is best if each student has his/her own copy of the study. Each section has a possible 10 points. You will have to grade your student subjectively in each section with 10 being the best possible performance of that skill and 0 being the complete absence of that skill.

Each topic may not utilize every section of the grade chart. Use only what applies and award full credit for the items that do not apply in grading the impromptu speeches.

Here are some online resources that will help you better master the art of public speaking if you haven't already had much experience with it. The first few are articles that will help you become a better communicator. The last two are links to online resources where you will be able to watch speeches and get a feel for what works and what doesn't.

\* Public Speaking Tips for Overcoming Fear: <http://artofeloquence.com/articles/public-speaking-tips/>

\* The ABC's of Effective Communication: <http://artofeloquence.com/articles/abcs/>

\* Communication Quotes: <http://artofeloquence.com/scriptures/>

\* <http://millercenter.org/scripps/archive/speeches>

\* <http://www.historychannel.com/speeches/index.html>

Consider video taping or recording each speech to provide your student with better feedback along with your review. Watching or listening to themselves is invaluable as they strive toward self-improvement.

Remember that this is a fun look at speech making and presentations so have fun with it. Each topic is designed to bring out as much of your creativity and personality as possible. Be as creative as you can. Think out of the box! Have fun! Let's begin!

**NOTE:** The following is a sample lesson from *Say What You Mean: A Creative Speech Course*. To order the full version, click here: <http://artofeloquence.com/store/JrSrHigh/SWMCS>

## Week 8: Impromptu-Unconventional Uses of Household Items

*“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.” Proverbs 3:13,14*

This week you are going to speak about the unconventional uses of some household items. You will do two, three minute speeches where you will discuss the ways in which you can use simple household appliances or items for things other than what they were originally intended. For example, I have heard of a woman that took an old antique refrigerator, unplugged it and cleaned it out. Then she used it as a book shelf and displayed it as an antique piece in her living room. Odd? Yes! But creative and fun too! Present this as if these are viable opportunities for the right person. Be creative but not silly. Ok, be silly if you must!

To get through the next three minutes you may need to elaborate on your ideas if you only have one or two ideas that come to mind. Describe them in detail if you must or if you can!

Here is a list of household items/appliances that you can choose from:

Refrigerator Fish Tank Vase Sheets Cooking Pots Towels	Hair Dryer Books Toaster Picture Frame Jars Fork Table
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**First Item:** \_\_\_\_\_

Oral Report Grading Criteria	Possible points	Points Earned	Comments
Credibility/Knowledge of Topic	10		
General Flow/Easy to Follow	10		
Backed Up with Facts?	10		
Use of Pictures/Props	10		
Eye Contact	10		
Volume/Tone	10		
Confidence./Personality	10		
Facial Expression	10		
Body Language	10		
Appropriate Appearance	10		
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>		
<b>Grade</b>	<b>A, B, C...</b>		

How was it? Did you stumble? Laugh? How many ways did you come up with to use that item? How many more did you think of after your teacher called time? I always think of great things to say after I have left the situation. Did you use visual language in order to help your audience try to picture your idea? What did you do well? Are the number of items you need to work on getting smaller? Great job!!

**Second Item:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Oral Report Grading Criteria</b>	<b>Possible points</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Credibility/Knowledge of Topic	10		
General Flow/Easy to Follow	10		
Backed Up with Facts?	10		
Use of Pictures/Props	10		
Eye Contact	10		
Volume/Tone	10		
Confidence./Personality	10		
Facial Expression	10		
Body Language	10		
Appropriate Appearance	10		
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>		
<b>Grade</b>	<b>A, B, C...</b>		

How did you do this second time? Were you able to think of more uses for this item or less? Did you spend more time elaborating on the uses this time or last time? Compare this speech to the last one. Which topic do you feel you did better with? Which topic was easier to talk about?

## **Week 8: Assignment**

This week you are going to prepare for a speech that you will be giving about an invention that you love-something that you feel has impacted modern society in a big way. It could be in a negative or a positive way. I want you to prepare to describe this invention, who invented it, when it was invented and how it has changed society. Then I want you to describe why this is positive or negative. You will have five minutes for this speech. Cite examples that support your beliefs, consult the Bible if it applies.

Plan to involve your audience's five senses as much as possible. Use props and/or other materials that would invite them to touch, hear, see, smell or taste this invention to the extent that it is possible.

As always, use your index cards or outline to help you prepare and practice your speech using all the speech skills we have talked about. Practice coming as close to that five minute mark as you can.



## Helpful Resources for Parents of Jr/Sr High Kids

### *JoJo's Articles:*

<http://artofeloquence.com/articles>

On this page of our site you'll find a collection of JoJo's best articles spanning various topics and all age ranges. This page is constantly being updated so check back often!

### *JoJo's Blog:*

<http://www.ArtofEloquence.com/blog>

Communication FUNdamentals is posted several times a week with articles, tips, Friday Funnies and various other ingredients that allow parents to learn more about communication skills in a fun and creative way. You can subscribe to our RSS feed so you don't miss a post! It's a great way to gain insight for your young children!

### *FIMM:*

<http://artofeloquence.com/fimm>

Foot in Mouth Man is Art of Eloquence's mascot and resident MIScommunicator. He sticks his foot in his mouth so often he has Athlete's Tongue! FIMM has his own page on the Art of Eloquence sit to amuse and confuse you and teach communication skills in a fun and creative way. Come see his video, his latest monthly misadventure and a few of his past episodes!

### *Newsletter:*

<http://artofeloquence.com/newsletter>

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter, What's New at Art of Eloquence for free gifts, exclusive offers, specials and advanced notice of new products as well as communication humor and much more! Many of these are ONLY available to our newsletter subscribers!

### *Art of Eloquence Catalog of Communication Studies:*

<http://artofeloquence.com/store>

As they grow, your children will need more instruction in communication skills in order to attain mastery. Being an effective communicator will enhance your child's self-confidence, leadership skills, personal presence, interaction and enjoyment, understanding of others, ability to persuade and learning effectiveness. It will also help them in various aspects of their personal and professional life. Browse our communication studies for preschoolers through adults covering topics from speech and debate to leadership, defending the faith, politics, business and more!

### *Art of Eloquence*

<http://www.ArtofEloquence.com>

For an overview of all the resources available from Art of Eloquence.

### *Customers who like Know Your Audience also like:*

**Know Your Audience**

**College Prep Pack**

**Say What You Mean Defending the Faith eStudy**

**Say What You Mean The Language of Leadership**