



Subject: Oral Communication is an essential discipline taught by Oral Communication Professionals

Greetings from the Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association

The Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association recognizes that the mastery of oral communication is an essential life skill. Oral Communication exceeds Common Core Standards to assure the success of our students outside the realm of education. In a world that demands mature and eloquent communication in both career and life, the mastery of oral communication is fundamental to continuing the success of our communities and our nation in a global marketplace. As the American foundation has progressively been built upon communication, from the Declaration of Independence to legislative debates and town hall meetings, our liberty and freedoms are inherently secured by the ability to communicate well. Our students are entitled to a quality education following this American tradition. It is the right and essential responsibility of our association and the State of Arkansas to endorse the values of oral communication in the state school curriculum and teacher licensure.

The position of the Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association is that all teachers responsible for Oral Communication curriculum display proof of quality preparation through both testing and successful completion of multiple accredited courses in this discipline at the undergraduate and/or graduate level. This quality preparation will be evident in our students' success and skill level as demonstrated on a specialized End of Course Exam to be developed by the Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education. Proper learning of these essential communication skills can only occur in Oral Communication, Debate, and Forensics courses taught by teachers with the qualifications detailed above. Furthermore, we assert that Oral Communication Standards cannot be disseminated into other concentrated courses in other disciplines and core classes without severe dissolution of the quality of our students' educational experience and quality of life thereafter.

The Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association resolves that the State of Arkansas and the Arkansas Department of Education support and affirm the continued undiluted teaching of oral communication in all Junior High Schools and Senior High Schools by specifically trained and tested oral communication professionals.

Drafted by the ACTAA Professional Standards and the Oral Communication Position Committees

July 14, 2014

Unanimously passed by the ACTAA membership in an emergency meeting at the annual summer workshop on July 14, 2014