

Oral Communication Position Statement

It is the position of the Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association that a course known variously as debate, argumentation, competitive communication, or forensics activities meets and exceeds the goals of Oral Communication and should be counted as an approved substitute for that requirement.

The Course Goals for Oral Communication (1 semester) are taken from the Student Learning Expectations from the Arkansas English Language Arts Curriculum Framework.

1. Course: Oral Communication.
2. Subject Area: Speech.
3. Teacher Licensure: Speech.
4. Grades: 9-12.
5. Course Number 41400

The goal of this oral communication course is to address the dynamic of effective communication including a foundational understanding and participation in expressing and presenting information in formal and informal settings.

This course will provide a foundational understanding for effective communication.

Goal 1: Intrapersonal

The basic course goals are:

- 1.1 Identify and define the elements of communication.
- 1.2 Define intrapersonal communication.
- 1.3 Analyze self as a communicator.

Goal 2: Interpersonal

- 2.1 Send accurate messages.
- 2.2 Develop relationships.
- 2.3 Demonstrate interviewing skills.
- 2.4 Use informal communication.
- 2.5 Utilize appropriate listening skills.

Goal 3: Group Communication

- 3.1 Examine and participate in group processes.
- 3.2 Use appropriate listening skills.

Goal 4: Public Communication

- 4.1 Prepare formal and informal speeches (informational, persuasive, demonstrative, etc).
- 4.2 Present formal and informal speeches (as above).
- 4.3 Critique formal and informal speeches.
- 4.4 Use appropriate listening skills.

Goal 5: Mass Communication

- 5.1 Identify types and uses of mass media.

5.2 Utilize critical listening skills.

In addition to the basic goals listed above, it is the position of ACTAA that debate offers additional outcomes over and above those of the Oral Communication. A list of those outcomes, recommended by the National Communication Association, is as follows:

http://www.natcom.org/Instruction/assessment/collegecomp/college_competencies_table1.htm

The student can:

1. Defend their position with evidence and reasoning.
2. Use an effective organizational pattern to persuade.
3. Adapt the message to the audience and communicate context.
4. Provide feedback to someone who is trying to persuade him or her.
5. Distinguish fact from opinion.
6. Evaluate critically another's spoken or mediated messages and attempts to influence.
7. Synthesize and evaluate by drawing logical inferences and conclusions.
8. Recall the implications and arguments made by a speaker.
9. Use evidence appropriate to the argument.

Approved by the Arkansas State Communication Association (now named Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association)

In convention

North Little Rock, AR

September 11, 2004

Oral Communication Course addendum:

The ADE will only accept for Oral Communication Credit, a course that is numbered 41400 and titled "Oral Communication."

In order to count debate or forensics for oral comm. credit, one semester **must** be entitled "Oral Communications" and have the ADE number 41400 as the course number.