

Public Speaking & Debate Workshop #1

Wednesday, March 15

Agenda

I. The Introduction

- Who are we, and why are we here?
- How would you describe yourself? What are three things that you are passionate about?

I introduced myself, my background. Please feel free to check my Fulbright Scholarship blog at www.outspokenela.com

Each participant filled out a “name card” which is an index card. Please bring this to every session. On the card is the participant’s name and three “things” they are passionate about. This will serve as a name card, but also as a rough draft for a talk/speech that you will prepare over the course of the workshops.

There were multiple participants who admitted to being nervous introducing themselves. Who knows you better than you? We must learn to manage our nervousness, it will never completely vanish.

I noticed a common thread among all of the participants; when introducing themselves with their passions, I noticed that all dealt with human rights, awakened to our humanness, and the power of the human spirit.

- Questions, Comments, and Concerns; Other Matters

There will be a total of 13 workshops in order to practice/rehearse, work on the multiple aspects that participants want, etc.

During our third week, I will be absent because of an obligation. I opened up a discussion to whether or not people would like to meet without me, and it was mentioned that the week was also “exam week” at the university. So, I have decided to email all of the participants for Workshop #3, but we will not meet for this session. We will again meet for Workshop #4.

II. The Conceptual Framework

- What do you hope to get out of this experience?
 - Goals & Aspirations

We then opened discussion to what each participant wants from the workshops, and what we might gain from this experience. Things mentioned were the following: argumentation, pre-speaking, creativity, motivational speaking, connection to audience, how to prepare for and moderate a discussion.

- What do we want and what do we need? Are they the same?

Every participant was in agreement with these goals for needs and wants.

- Where can we form consensus?

There was an ENORMOUS discussion regarding meeting time and day. As I have said before, if you try to make everyone happy, you will make no one happy. After a heavy back and forth regarding meeting days, it was decided that Tuesday is the best day for participants. It was also mentioned that we could alternate one Tuesday, and then the following week will be Wednesday. This was a popular idea, but it is not feasible regarding room reservations. So, we will meet on Tuesdays. I will have to leave early 5:50 as I have a commitment on the other side of town at 6PM.

I will be available on Tuesdays at 4:30PM, so if you would like to start early, each individual can make that decision for themselves. We will officially start at 5PM, and the sessions will last one hour.

Please check your email regularly for updates on agenda and room arrangements. If you are not receiving email from me, then you need to take initiative before the session to take care of this with me.

I am a big believer that we should have a capstone or culmination to our workshops. If we set goals than we can “map backwards” to where we are and it will motivate us to reach further. It is not required to present a talk/speech, but it was agreed that we will have an evening where we will present our ideas to an audience. Every participant demonstrated interest in this goal.

III. Content + Delivery = 100%

- Speaker Points We did not get to this; more next week
- Do our “ends” justify our “means”?
 - Your Story – The Hero on a Quest Briefly mentioned; more next week