

# Speech Auditions 2023:

**Auditions:** November 15-17 after school, in room C-106. This will be on a first come basis. If you earned a SPEECH TEAM LETTER LAST YEAR, you do not need to audition this year, but **YOU MUST FILL OUT YOUR AUDITION FORM**. Please contact Mr. Ingles by email [ningles@plsas.org](mailto:ningles@plsas.org) if you have questions.

Speech members have a wide variety of talents with 13 different categories to fit each member's specific skills. Some speeches are written by the performer, some speeches are written by someone else, and some speakers make up on the spot. Typically, we divide categories into two different areas:

- **Interpretation** - These categories are for actors or theater people. You need to have a good sense of character, emotion, and/or humor. These speakers need to be able to bring a story to life. They may be able to become multiple different characters. **Interpretive Categories include the following: Prose, Poetry, Drama, Humorous, Duo, Storytelling, Extemp. Reading, and Creative Expression\***
- **Public Address** – These categories are what you may typically think of when you hear speech. These speeches seek to express opinions or inform. Some of the categories require speakers to be up to date on their current events; otherwise, speakers may choose to research one specific topic. These categories are especially good for students who either enjoy Social Studies classes, research, and/or writing. **Public Address categories include the following: Informative\*, Great Speeches\*, Original Oratory\*, Discussion, and Extemp. Speaking**

***\*Denotes a writing category. A writing sample will need to be provided if you wish to be considered for any of these categories.***

## The Audition Process:

1. Auditions will be held after school November 15-17. Please indicate on your audition form which day you hope to audition. We understand that your plans may change.
2. Students should consider their talents and their interests prior to the audition.
3. Fill out the [audition form](#) before your audition. This will also help you to think about which category you may be most suited. Also, it will help us to determine which category would be the best fit for you.
4. Be prepared to perform any of the pieces from this packet for any categories for which you wish to be considered. Auditions will be fairly short, but we may ask you to perform a variety of pieces during your audition as well as give you a few directions to follow.
5. Students do not need to memorize any of the pieces, but we encourage you to prepare and practice ahead of time.
6. Returning members interested in Double-Entering will need to audition for the second category.

# PART 1: Interpretive Categories

**Interpretive Categories include the following: Prose, Poetry, Drama, Humorous, Duo, Storytelling, Extemp. Reading, and Creative Expression**

## **\*Writing Sample:**

**If you would like to be considered for Creative Expression, please bring in a sample of something creative you have written. If you don't have something, write a sample and bring it to your audition!**

## **Script A:**

**Serious: Prepare this piece with a serious delivery. Take your time, use gestures when necessary.**

If I asked you about war you could refer me to a bevy of fictional and non-fictional material, but you've never been in one. You've never held your best friend's head in your lap and watched him draw his last breath, looking to you for help. And if I asked you about love I'd get a sonnet, but you've never looked at a woman (or man) and been truly vulnerable. To have the love be there for her (or him) forever. Through anything, through cancer. You wouldn't know about sleeping sitting up in a hospital room for two months holding her (or his) hand and not leaving because the doctors could see in your eyes that the term "visiting hours" didn't apply to you. And you wouldn't know about real loss, because that only occurs when you lose something you love more than yourself, and you've never dared to love anything that much.

## **Script B:**

**Line Variation: Be prepared to read this line with different tones, voices, or accents.**

Line: Can you point me in the direction of the nearest bathroom?

Possible things to consider:

TONES: Angry, Scared, Happy, Upset, Inquisitive, Nerdy, Offended, Disgusted, Confused, Indifferent, Exhausted, Hyperactive, Mysterious, Shocked, Bashful, Sarcastic, Deadpan, etc...

VOICES: Famous Person, Cartoon Character, TV Hosts, Presidential, Salesman, Animal, Child, etc...

ACCENTS: Southern, Minnesotan, Boston, Brooklyn, British, Irish, Scottish, Russian, Jamaican, Australian, Indian, etc...

**Scripts C1 and C2: HUMOROUS: Prepare either script C1 or C2 with a humorous delivery. Use different character voices and gestures.**

**C1:**

A: I'll give you a dollar for that.

B: No way. I told you that it was twenty dollars.

A: But I only have a dollar.

B: You do realize that I've come all the way down here to sell this to you.

A: Yes.

B: And I told you up front that the price was twenty dollars.

A: Yes.

B: And you are offering me one dollar?

A: That is correct.

B: Why on earth would I sell this to you for a dollar?

A: Well, the way I see it, there are no other buyers.

B: I turned the other offers down because you told me that you would buy it for twenty dollars.

A: Right. So, they're no longer in the picture. Now you have an item that no one else wants, which brings it down in value.

B: You're crazy.

A: I'm doing you a favor by taking this basically worthless thing off your hands.

B: Let's not waste each other's time. I'll give it to you for fifteen dollars and we'll call it good.

A: I only have a dollar.

B: I'm outta here.

A: Wait. I'll give you ten.

B: You just said you only had a dollar.

A: In this pocket. I have nine more in this other pocket.

B: Oh, for Pete's sake. Just give me the ten dollars.

A: (Fumbles for money...while B hands over the item, which drops and breaks.) Uh oh.

B: Hand over the ten dollars.

A: Sorry. I don't want it now.

## C2:

A: The big dance is this weekend. I was thinking...maybe we could go together?

B: On one condition. Where would we eat beforehand?

A: Oh, I don't know. I hadn't thought about it.

B: I'm a vegetarian. I can't eat meat.

A: That's no problem.

B: Good. And nothing dairy based. I'm lactose intolerant, so I can't have anything with milk or cheese.

A: I think we can work around that.

B: And nothing wheat based either...my allergies...I'll blow right up.

A: What can you eat?

B: Not seafood! If there is shellfish within 35 feet of me, I'll need to go to the emergency room. I could die.

A: (to audience) To think I was afraid he'd say no. Now I'm afraid of potential manslaughter charges.

B: And not Mexican. The last time I had Mexican food I was in the bathroom all night. Fruits and vegetables are okay, but they have to be pureed into a complete liquid form. Even then, no green or orange vegetables and no red or blue or green or yellow fruits.

A: Maybe we'll just skip dinner and go straight to the dance.

B: Deal. But no slow dancing. And I hope they don't play any fast hip hop songs either. Or country music. Yuck. Did I mention I'm not much of a dancer? And I hate music.

A: Maybe we should skip the dance and go to a movie.

B: Yes! But nothing with singing or explosions. And not on the weekend. I don't leave the house on days that have the letter "u" in them.

A: You know what? Forget I asked.

B: Was it something I said?

## Part 2: Public Address Categories

Public Address categories include the following: Informative\*, Great Speeches\*, Original Oratory\*, Discussion, and Extemp. Speaking (*Most of the categories require either writing or research*)

**Script D: Prepare the persuasive speech below. Use gestures when necessary.**

I absolutely love family vacations...well, most of the time. Don't get me wrong I appreciate every historical landmark I've had the opportunity to visit; but being in an unfamiliar location can be a bit stressful, especially for my parents. They don't really believe in the whole GPS concept. With only a paper map as their guides, we travel in search of adventure. After about an hour of driving in circles just trying to find the hotel, the *frustration* finally sets in and my dad ends up adding a few dollars to the swear jar.

All we had to do was pull over and ask for help. Jacob Staub, a professor of Jewish Philosophy explains in his 2014 article "Asking for Help," society has been taught from an early age that it is better to be independent and self-reliant than dependent. Society worships self-sufficiency so much that we have become afraid to ask for help. This go-it-alone mentality follows us into adulthood. A 2014 Office Team survey uncovers that 42% of senior managers identify the number one problem with employees is that they don't ask for help. So today we will give ourselves the opportunity for a successful family vacation by first driving through the main reasons we don't ask for help, then accurately navigating the benefits of asking to understand its importance, and finally pulling over with some solutions.

**Script E: Prepare both sections of the speech below. The excerpt from Jordan's speech should have an interpretive delivery and the second section a more formal delivery.**

*(Barbara Jordan's speech)* The citizens of America expect more. We are a people in a quandary about the present. We are a people in search of our future. We are a people in search of a national community. We are a people trying not only to solve the problems of the present, unemployment, inflation, but we are attempting on a larger scale to fulfill the promise of America.

*(Analysis written by a student)* Jordan's speech may have many little details, and go off on minute tangents, but it all centers in on the same idea, identification. We know from Kenneth Burke's A Rhetoric of Motives, that identification is dealing with sameness, to become the same. The meaning hidden in Jordan's words is that we need to identify each other—ourselves as one nation. We need to realize that we are, after all, cut from the same cloth. And it is because we are cut from this same cloth that we are able to overcome the obstacles of diversity, and identify.

### **\*Writing Sample:**

**If you would like to be considered for Informative, Original Oratory or Great Speeches, please bring in a sample of your own writing. (A paper or speech you've written for class, something you have written for fun, etc.) If you don't have something, write a sample and bring it to your audition!**

## **PART 3: Be prepared to answer one of the questions below to audition for the categories of discussion and extemporaneous speaking.**

### **Discussion:**

Please come prepared to discuss the topic given below. A successful discussant is able to clearly articulate and defend their point of view, and is able to interact with others. Part of the audition will be spent discussing the audition topic; the rest will be spent talking about your interpersonal communication skills.

### **Season Topic: Communication Breakdown: Can We Communicate Effectively In Our Modern World**

**Audition Question – What role do all forms of media play in the political polarization of American society?**

#### **Other Considerations**

1. You should NOT come to the audition with a speech written
2. Coaches will be observing your speaking skills as well as your ability to analyze and recall info.
3. Opinions are part of the conversation as long as you are able to explain them and back them up!

### **Extemporaneous Speaking:**

Please come prepared to answer ONE of the questions listed below. You do not need to write a speech, but be prepared to justify your response. A successful extemporaneous speech is organized, well-researched, and clearly answers the question.

- a. Domestic Topic – Should Joe Biden be the Democratic nominee for President in 2024?**
- b. International Topic – How does continued conflict in Ukraine impact the global community?**

#### **Other Considerations**

1. You should NOT come to the audition with a speech written
2. Coaches will be observing your speaking skills as well as your ability to analyze and recall info.
3. Opinions are part of the conversation as long as you are able to explain them and back them up!