

Course Syllabus

Course Title: Public Speaking, Debate, and TEDx Talk

- ❖ Grades: 6–11
- ❖ Total Lessons: 25 lessons (50 minutes each)
- ❖ Course Schedule: Sundays, 2:50pm-3:40pm, September 13th ~May 9th, 2027
- ❖ Course Location: Shaker Middle School, 475 Watervliet Shaker Rd, Latham, NY 12110

End-of-Year TEDx Student Talks Showcase: *Each student will present a TEDx-style talk on stage in the school auditorium before a live audience. Tentative Showcase Date: May 2, 2027*

Course Highlights:

- Open to all experience levels—beginners and advanced students welcome
 - Peer-led and highly interactive
 - Prepares students for school presentations, leadership roles, and speaking competitions
 - Builds lifelong confidence and communication skills
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Unit 1: Foundations of Public Speaking (Lessons 1–4)

Goal: Build comfort and confidence by speaking in front of others

- Lesson 1: Icebreakers & Confidence-Building Activities
 - Lesson 2: Voice, Body Language, and Stage Presence
 - Lesson 3: Audience Awareness & Purposeful Speaking
 - Lesson 4: Impromptu Speaking Games & Practice
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Unit 2: Debate Basics & Critical Thinking (Lessons 5–8)

Goal: Learn the structure and skills of formal debate

- Lesson 5: Introduction to Debate: Formats, Rules, and Key Terms
 - Lesson 6: Building Strong Arguments (Claims, Evidence, Reasoning)
 - Lesson 7: Rebuttals, Refutation, and Persuasive Speaking
 - Lesson 8: Mini-Debates in Pairs & Groups
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Unit 3: TEDx Talk Introduction & Topic Brainstorm (Lessons 9–11)

Goal: Begin TEDx project with topic exploration

- Lesson 9: What Makes a Great TEDx Talk? Watch, Analyze, and Discuss

- Lesson 10: Brainstorming Personal Passions & “Ideas Worth Spreading”
 - Lesson 11: Selecting a Topic and Creating an Outline
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Unit 4: Speech Writing & Workshop (Lessons 12–15)

Goal: Write and refine TEDx talk drafts

- Lesson 12: Crafting a Powerful Opening
 - Lesson 13: Organizing Ideas Clearly (Beginning–Middle–End)
 - Lesson 14: Adding Storytelling, Humor, and Personal Touch
 - Lesson 15: Peer Review & Constructive Feedback
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Unit 5: Debate Rounds & Speaking Practice (Lessons 16–18)

Goal: Reinforce speaking under pressure and structured arguments

- Lesson 16: Debate Round 1: Friendly Competition
 - Lesson 17: Strategy Review & Speaker Feedback
 - Lesson 18: Debate Round 2: Team Debate
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Unit 6: TEDx Talk Practice & Polish (Lessons 19–23)

Goal: Prepare TEDx speeches for showcase

- Lesson 19: Practicing with Partners & Coaches
 - Lesson 20: Delivery Skills: Voice, Timing, and Emotion
 - Lesson 21: Full-Length Practice with Peer Feedback
 - Lesson 22: Dress Rehearsal & Final Edits
 - Lesson 23: Final Coaching and Stage Preparation
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Unit 7: Showcase & Reflection (Lessons 24–25)

Goal: Present final TEDx talks and reflect on growth

- Lesson 24: TEDx Student Talks Showcase — Live Presentation on Stage Before an Audience
- Lesson 25: Awards, Celebration, Reflection, and Course Feedback

****Syllabus is subjected to change based on the class student level and backgrounds*