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NMH SUMMER SESSION

2010
College Prep Program
PUBLIC SPEAKING MINOR COURSE

The course was designed as an introductory workshop for ambitious young speakers in effective communication before an audience of their peers. The object was to improve each student's confidence, creativity, vocal ability, and research skills.

The students completed three major assignments during the session. The first was a recitation and interpretation of a famous monologue from history or literature. The second project introduced them to the effective use of visual aids such as PowerPoint. The task was to present and analyze a current domestic or international controversy or policy issue. The class culminated with a round of persuasive debates that introduced the students to receiving questions and arguing extemporaneously. Throughout the session, they wrote their own presentations and speeches, and delivered speeches in class at least twice every week. Each time, they were given feedback on their delivery, as well as opportunities to critique one another.

Outside of the major assignments, the course included extemporaneous speaking activities, exercises aimed at improving vocal variety and delivery, a mock college interview, and an awards ceremony complete with acceptance speeches.

The students were also exposed to the work of established orators and famous performers, including Barack Obama, Marlon Brando, and Martin Luther King. As a class, the students discussed and evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of famous speakers and considered how these lessons might apply to their own speaking.

The course met for one and a half hours, four days a week, for the five-week session.

Instructors: Scott Middleton
Brown University

Mark Davenport
Dartmouth College