



LESSON 3.16 Speak to Me!

Module #3: Making the Grade

Academically, the ninth grade year often defines a student's entire high school experience. Therefore, it is imperative that all freshmen get off to a great start with their academic work. This can be accomplished through the teaching of study skills, note taking skills, and learning styles and through an increased awareness of resources available to build academic success.

Enduring Understandings

- I. **Academic success in high school requires a toolbox equipped with skills and strategies to use in navigating the completion of academic coursework.**
- II. Knowing about, understanding, and using the many academic resources available will increase the likelihood of a successful high school experience.

Essential Questions

- I. What are habits of mind and how will they help me? (I)
- II. **What can I do to ensure my academic success in high school? (I)**
- III. What resources does my high school have available to help build my academic success? (II)

Lesson Objective(s)

Students will gain knowledge of and practice in presentation skills.

Lesson 3.14

Lesson 3.15

Lesson 3.16

Lesson 3.17

Lesson 3.18

Directions:

1. Briefly review the discussions of public speaking from Lesson 3.12. **See Sample Impromptu Speech Topics on Page 2**
2. Introduce the concept of "impromptu" speaking to the freshmen. Explain that each student will choose a note card with a speech topic as the student goes to the front of the room. Immediately, the student will talk for 30 seconds about the topic on the card. Stress the importance of having an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.
3. Give students a five second warning at 25 seconds so they can add a conclusion.
4. To make it fun, have the student leaders model impromptu speeches first, by having the freshmen volunteer random topics for them to use.

Materials & Supplies

- Note cards with an impromptu speech topic written on each one (list included)
- A timepiece that can count seconds

Note: Teachers/students leaders can create additional topics, if they choose.

FOCUS
POINT

It's hard enough being a freshman. Now try being a freshman in front of a class giving a speech! Some words of encouragement from you will go a long way – and be remembered when they have to give a speech for real!

- There are many good books in the market aimed at teenagers that can be a great enhancement to this module.
- Two texts we suggest:
 - *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* - Sean Covey
 - *Seven Secrets of How to Study* - Stephen Jones

resources
&
extension

Sample Impromptu Speech Topics

1. Cars
2. School lunch
3. Hair styles
4. Reality TV
5. Math
6. Seniors
7. Concerts
8. Video phones
9. Cell phones
10. Television
11. Radio
12. Movies
13. Pizza
14. Intramural activities
15. Vacation
16. Graduation
17. Freshmen
18. Sports
19. Computers
20. Report cards
21. Snow days
22. Restaurants
23. Music
24. Shopping
25. Summer