

PUBLIC SPEAKING

3rd Edition

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Preface

We are grateful to the many instructors and their thousands of students who have justified this new edition of *Public Speaking*. The opportunity to touch so many lives is exhilarating, but it is also quite sobering. Accordingly, we have approached this revision of our book with both excitement and caution.

Over the past three years we have spoken with many teachers and students and listened to their suggestions and reflections on their classroom experience with the text. This new revision is enriched by what we have learned from them, and records our own growth in the discipline. We especially have gained appreciation for the role of public speaking in a multicultural society. A sentence from the preface to our Second Edition is even more true than we realized then: "An effective public speech is like a bridge that joins people who otherwise would be quite separate." Moreover, we have strengthened our conviction that the ethical importance of speaking must never be absent from the communication enterprise. Finally, our appreciation for the vital, creative role of listening in public communication has intensified.

While this edition reflects this new consciousness, we have not changed the basic orientation that so many users have endorsed. We continue to honor a study that ancient educators thought belonged at the center of liberal education. What other discipline, they argued, requires students to think clearly, to organize their thoughts, to select and combine words judiciously, and to express themselves with power and conviction, all under the direct scrutiny of a live audience? In our own time, the study of public speaking should empower us as speakers and listeners in the many social, economic, and political situations that require open discussion. Not only our personal success but the fate of our communities may depend upon the outcomes of such discussions.

For these reasons we believe that a college or university course in public speaking should offer more than practical advice, as useful as such advice may be. The student must also understand why certain techniques work and don't work in certain situations or under certain conditions. Therefore we continue to emphasize both the *how* and the *why* of public speaking—*how* so that beginners can achieve success as quickly as possible, and *why* so that they may add flexibility, understanding, and a sense of responsibility to their new skill.

The third edition of *Public Speaking* offers both practical instruction and an introduction to the principles underlying effective communication. Many

new examples and models of successful speaking help bring the material to life. The Roman educator, Quintilian, held forth the ideal of "the good person speaking well" as the goal of all such instruction. We follow in his path as we stress the value of speech training in the development of the whole person. We also emphasize that successful public speaking is leadership-inaction and that improving one's speaking skills is excellent training for leadership roles. In addition, a solid understanding of the basics of public communication makes students more resistant to unethical speakers and more intelligently critical of daily communication. Our goal is to help students become both better producers and better consumers of public communication.

FEATURES OF THE TEXT

In pursuit of these objectives, we have developed a number of special features.

Step-by-Step Presentation

Our presentation of topics helps students build knowledge and skills stepby-step to achieve positive results. It is especially important for beginners to have a successful first speaking experience. For this reason, Chapter 2 offers an elementary overview of required skills so that students can develop good speeches introducing themselves or others. This overview helps students present introductory speeches that build a sense of classroom community and trust. In the chapters that follow, students learn how to listen critically and constructively, to analyze their audiences, to select, refine, and research speech topics, to develop supporting materials, to arrange these materials in appropriate structures, to outline their thinking in disciplined patterns, and to create effective visual aids. They also learn how to manage words and how to present their messages. They then learn about the major forms of public speaking, the nature of information and how to present it, the process of persuasion and how to engage it, and the importance of ceremonial speaking. Appendix A, "Group Communication," offers concise practical advice on how to participate effectively in small groups. Individual instructors may rearrange this pattern to suit different syllabi and course strategies.

The How and the Why of Public Speaking

Consistent with our "how and why" philosophy, we base our practical advice on underlying principles of human communication. The book begins with a concept of public speaking as a dynamic circle that links speakers, listeners, language, the time and place of the speech, and the overall communication environment. As we offer advice on structuring speeches, we show how various structural designs can be explained by simple concepts of Gestalt psychology such as "good form." In Chapter 10, when we tell students how to manage words, we also discuss the basic functions words perform. In Chapters 12 and 13, we ground our advice on informative speaking in learning theory, and our advice on persuasive speaking in a model adapted from social psychology. We show further, in Chapter 14, how evidence, proof, and argument function together as an integrated system that makes persuasion work. As we consider ceremonial speaking in Chapter 15, we show how two basic principles, one derived from classical and the other from contemporary theory, provide essential techniques for successful ceremonial speaking. We draw from the past and present, from the social sciences and the humanities, in our effort to provide the most useful coverage of the elements of public speaking for the beginning speaker.

Focus on Planning and Structuring Speeches

We give special attention to selecting worthwhile topics and to preparing and structuring speeches. Chapter 5 introduces a systematic method of topic selection that ties together personal and audience interests and the requirements of the assignment. The chapter leads the student step-by-step through the process of analyzing and refining the selected topic. Chapter 6 explains four major forms of supporting material and their strengths and limitations. Chapter 7 shows how to combine these materials into an effective structure by determining, arranging, and developing the main points of a speech. The concept of good form helps us explain why some speeches succeed while others fail. Because outlining is such an important part of planning a speech, Chapter 8 guides students through its processes, including preparation, formal, and key-word outlines.

Emphasis on Ethics

Public Speaking introduces students to the ethics of communication and the responsibilities of the speaker. Chapter 1 discusses the problem of plagiarism and challenges each class to develop a code of ethical conduct to be observed during the term. Chapter 5 introduces the concept of *responsible knowledge* as an ethical requirement for all public speakers. Throughout the text, we warn against abuses of supporting materials, evidence, proofs, arguments, and potent stylistic forms. We encourage students to respect cultural differences both in themselves and others, recognizing our national diversity. In addition, the book encourages thorough deliberation of critical public issues.

Learning Tools

The book provides models to guide students in their classroom speaking experiences. Sample annotated speeches and outlines illustrate the techniques appropriate to particular assignments; for example, the student speech at the end of Chapter 12 illustrates both informative speaking methods and the use of visual aids. In addition, the book abounds with contemporary examples that help students see the application of communication techniques and principles to the world in which they live. The four-color design and the carefully selected photographs facilitate learning by making the book colorful and appealing.

We have designed each chapter to enhance knowledge. Learning objectives cue students to the content and prepare them for productive reading. The epigram and vignette that open each chapter point up its significance and motivate readers. Speaker's Notes such as "Developing a Formal Outline" and "Evaluating Examples" reinforce learning as the chapters develop. Model speeches throughout the text and additional speeches for analysis in Appendix B represent an interesting variety of speech topics, contexts, and speakers, and illustrate the major forms of self-introductory, informative, persuasive, and ceremonial speeches. Chapter summaries and Terms to Know remind the student of important points, and discussion and application exercises help put the knowledge to work. A glossary at the end of the book defines all the Terms to Know.

F CHANGES IN THE THIRD EDITION

This new edition has given us the chance to refine and reinforce old themes and introduce new ideas.

Cultural Diversity

We believe that the public speaking class provides an ideal laboratory to explore and discover the different cultures that make up America. Students learn to tolerate and respect the many voices that make up what Lincoln once described as "the chorus of the Union." They also learn to accept and even cherish the many voices within themselves, for most of us have been fashioned by many cultures.

The representation of different cultures in most audiences also can present the speaker with a formidable practical problem in speech adaptation. How can we speak in a manner that invites these cultures to share a common understanding? Throughout the book, we return to this question.

For these reasons, the values of cultural diversity, strongly implicit in the first two editions, have become explicit in the Third Edition. We are convinced that respect for diversity and sensitivity to cultural differences are essential for effective, ethical speaking. We discuss these values directly and select our examples and model speeches in light of their importance. Chapter 1 discusses "cultural benefits" along with personal and social benefits. As the book proceeds, topics such as audience analysis in Chapter 4, the speaker's language, and the selection of supporting materials in Chapter 6 offer opportunities to emphasize the speaker's concern for cultural diversity. In particular, we add "cultural sensitivity" to our standards for effective language usage discussed in Chapter 10.

Balanced Approach to Listening

Recently we worked with the Kettering Foundation on a project to improve public communication. That experience, plus our reading of the recent literature, has led us to develop a more balanced approach to listening. In the past, textbooks including our own have focused on critical listening as a defensive skill for protection from exploitive or defective communication. While understandable, this emphasis neglects the creative, constructive dimension of listening that makes the audience a vital partner in communication. The balanced ideal of critical and constructive listening invites audiences to participate more fully in the co-creation of meaning. As we describe this ideal in Chapter 3, our goal is to offer a more healthy, holistic view of listening that will encourage better listening behavior and a more expansive view of public speaking as an important social force.

Highlights of Specific Changes

Throughout the Third Edition, the reader will encounter fresh writing, improved examples, and new sample speeches. Chief among these specific changes are the following:

- more attention to the pervasive importance of ethics. For example, Chapter 1 now highlights ethics as the most important criterion of speech evaluation.
- enriched discussion of communication apprehension in Chapter 2 so that the beginning student receives more support on this problem early in the course.
- change from "target audience" to "primary audience" to remove any suggestion that manipulation is an acceptable practice and to match our new emphasis on constructive listening.
- expanded and updated section in Chapter 5 on the use of "Electronic Data Bases" in library research.
- significant use of examples from award-winning student speeches in the 1991 Houghton Mifflin public speaking contest.
- greater emphasis in Chapter 8 on the process nature of outlining and on the role of audience in speech design.
- simplified, more accessible chapters on language and persuasion.
- added section on video presentations in Chapter 11 on "Presenting Your Speech."
- enriched discussion of informative speaking in Chapter 12, including a new chart matching types of speeches with design options, model outlines for each design option, fresh examples, and incorporation of recent research.

F PLAN OF THE BOOK

The plan of the book is both logical and flexible. We have found that the present sequence of topics works well in the classroom, beginning with an overview of the communication process and gradually building toward more complex skills and deeper understanding. Teachers who prefer a different sequence, however, will find the book easy to use because each chapter covers a topic thoroughly and completely.

Part One, "The Foundations of Public Speaking," provides basic information that students need for their first speaking and listening experiences. Chapter 1 highlights the personal, social, and cultural benefits of speaking effectively and explains the ethical responsibilities speakers must always bear in mind. We use a model to emphasize the dynamic interaction of speakers, listeners, ideas, the occasion and situation, and the overall communication environment. The chapter concludes with criteria for evaluating public speaking.

Chapter 2 offers students procedures for planning, outlining, practicing, and presenting their first speeches. The chapter helps them develop credibility for later speeches and cope with communication apprehension. It describes a speech assignment for introducing the self or others that can help break the ice and establish a constructive atmosphere in the class. An annotated student speech of self-introduction completes the chapter. Chapter 3, on critical and constructive listening, redefines the role of the audience in public communication. The chapter identifies common listening problems and explains ways to overcome these problems. The chapter concludes by developing the criteria introduced in Chapter 1 into a useful listener's guide for evaluating speeches.

Part Two, "Preparation for Public Speaking," provides in-depth coverage of the basic skills needed to prepare an effective speech: audience analysis, topic selection, research techniques, the development of supporting materials, and structuring and outlining. Chapter 4 emphasizes the importance of the audience one anticipates when preparing and developing a speech. We explain how to adapt to the speech occasion, to audience characteristics (including demographic information), and to audience dynamics. Chapter 5 provides systematic ways to select and refine topics so that the speech purpose is clearly framed. We also identify the library resources most useful for public speeches and offer suggestions for interviewing. Chapter 6 covers the types of supporting materials speakers must gather as they research their topics. The chapter discusses facts and figures, examples, and testimony. Responding to recent research, it introduces the narrative as another basic form of supporting material.

Chapter 7 shows students how to determine the main points in the body of the speech, how to make transitions from point to point, and how to prepare effective introductions and conclusions. Extended examples guide students through the outlining process in Chapter 8, from developing an initial preparation outline to completing a formal outline and a key-word outline for use during presentation.

Part Three, "Developing Presentation Skills," covers the use of visual aids, language, voice, and body for an effective presentation. Chapter 9 explains the development and appropriate use of visual aids to augment the message of a speech; examples illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of each type of aid. This chapter's discussion of computer graphics and of the role of color in the visual communication of ideas is distinctive. Chapter 10 provides a comprehensive understanding of the powerful role language plays in communication and offers many practical suggestions for using language effectively. Chapter 11 helps students develop presentation skills, offering useful exercises to develop both voice and body language. The aim of this chapter is to help students build an extemporaneous style that is adaptable to most public speaking situations. The chapter concludes with a section devoted to video presentations.

Part Four, "Types of Public Speaking," discusses informative, persuasive, and major ceremonial types of public speaking. Chapter 12 covers the principles and practices of speeches designed to share information and increase understanding. The chapter explains the functions of informative speaking and presents designs suitable for structuring such speeches. We go beyond the mechanics to show how informative speaking serves listeners' basic desire to learn, and conclude the chapter with an annotated student speech.

Chapter 13 describes the principles underlying the persuasive process and the skills needed for persuasion. The chapter focuses on the types and challenges of persuasive speaking, covers designs that are appropriate to persuasive speeches, and offers an annotated student speech for analysis. This chapter demonstrates how persuasion operates in our daily lives. In Chapter 14 we explain the uses of evidence, proof, and argument and how to combine them in effective persuasion. The object is to show students how to form powerful arguments to support their positions on policies or proposals. The chapter concludes by identifying the major forms of fallacy that can discredit persuasion, so that students can avoid such errors in their own speeches and detect them in the messages of others.

Chapter 15 discusses speaking on ceremonial occasions. The chapter shows the relationship of such speaking to cultural values and centers on the important techniques of identification and magnification. We consider many types of ceremonial speeches, such as speeches of introduction, tribute, acceptance, inspiration, eulogy, and celebration, including the after-dinner speech. A special section shows the uses and possible dangers of humor in such speaking. The chapter includes annotated speech excerpts and an annotated after-dinner speech to illustrate the major techniques.

Appendix A, "Group Communication," introduces students to the problem-solving process and the responsibilities of group participants. This appendix also provides guidelines for managing informal and formal meetings, and introduces students to the basic concepts of parliamentary procedure. Appendix B contains sample speeches by professional and student speakers for classroom analysis and discussion.

² SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

The following are available to users of Public Speaking:

- The Instructor's Resource Manual with Test Items was written by ٠ Suzanne Osborn and Randall Parrish Osborn. In Part I, the manual includes sections on the purpose and philosophy of the course, preparing a syllabus, various sample syllabuses, an assortment of speech assignment options, a discussion of evaluating and grading speeches. a troubleshooting guide and teaching strategies for new instructors, and an extensive bibliography of resource readings. Part II of the manual offers a chapter-by-chapter guide to teaching Public Speaking, including learning objectives, suggestions for teaching, lecture/discussion outline, guidelines for using end-of-chapter items, additional activities, ancillary materials, transparency masters and handouts, and a bibliography of readings for enrichment. Part III offers test items for all chapters, and Part IV provides annotations for the speeches in Appendix B. The manual is the most comprehensive of its kind available, and can be used as a text for training teaching assistants.
- *Speech Designer*, a computer program designed to accompany the text, has been carefully revised for this edition. It offers students a self-directed, step-by-step electronic tour of outlining their speeches, and includes formats for each major speech design discussed in the text. This unique feature should improve the structure of student speeches, and should also result in better knowledge of speech design options.
- Transparencies may be used to enhance lectures and class discussions on such topics as the Dynamic Circle of Communication and the Stepby-Step Guide to Preparing a Self-Introductory Speech.
- Test-generating software is available.
- Teachers can arrange for an additional chapter, "Classical Origins of Public Speaking," to be included with the books they order. This chapter offers a summary and appreciation of the ideas developed by the early Greek theorists on the nature and importance of public speaking.

• Videotapes, two featuring student speeches, and one showing major public addresses on vital contemporary issues, are available to adopters. The special topic for the third edition's contemporary issues tape is "The Contentious Society." The tape offers controversial speeches by President Bill Clinton at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Barbara Bush and Hillary Rodham Clinton on the identity and values of women, Robert Redford on environmental problems, Elizabeth Glaser on the agony of AIDS, and Arthur Ashe and Michael Crichton on the quality and ethics of contemporary mass communication.

The videotapes are accompanied by a *Guide to the Video Program* prepared by the authors. The *Guide* contains the text of each student speech, an evaluation, suggested discussion questions, and a commentary. In addition, both the videotapes and the *Guide* continue a theme introduced in the supplementary materials for the previous edition, "Prominent Speakers on Contemporary Issues." The *Guide* introduces the background for each prominent speech, provides its text, develops a discussion guide, and offers critical commentary. Users should contact Houghton Mifflin representatives for details.

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Contents

F PART ONE THE FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

1 Public Speaking as Communication

Personal Benefits of Public Speaking 5 Social Benefits of Public Speaking 6 Cultural Benefits of Public Speaking 8 The Communication Process 9 The Speaker as Source 10 Idea 11 Message 11 Medium 12 The Audience as Receiver 13 Response 13 The Communication Environment 13 What Makes a Good Public Speech? 14 Speaker Commitment 14 Well-Chosen Topic 15 Clear Sense of Purpose 16 Audience Involvement 16 Substance 17 Appropriate Structure 17 Skillful Language Use - 19 Effective Presentation 20 The Ethics of Public Speaking 21 Respect for the Audience 21 Responsible Knowledge 22 Concern for Consequences 23 Responsibilities of Listeners 24 In Summary 24 🔳 Terms to Know 25 🔳 Discussion 25 🔳 Application 26 Notes 27

iii

1

3

Speaker's Notes: How to Create a Good Public Speech 15 How to Avoid Plagiarism 23

Your First Speech 2 29 Understanding the Impressions You Make 31 Competence 31 Integrity 31 Likableness 33 Power -34 Introducing Yourself and Others 35 Developing the Introductory Speech 39 Designing Your Speech 40 Introduction 41 Body 42 Conclusion 43 Outlining the Introductory Speech 44 Presenting the Introductory Speech 45 Spotlight the Ideas 46 Sound Natural 46 Key-Word Outline 46 Practice Your Speech 47 Make Nervousness Work for You 48 In Summary 51 Terms to Know 52 Discussion 52 Application 53
Notes 55 Speaker's Notes: Self-Awareness Inventory 39 Preparing Your First Speech 43 Ten Ways to Control Communication Apprehension 50

Sample Speech of Self-Introduction:

Sandra Baltz, "My Three Cultures" 56

3 Critical and Constructive Listening

59

Benefits of Critical and Constructive Listening 61
Overcoming Listening Problems 64
Personal Reactions 64
Attitudes 67
Bad Habits 69
Critical Thinking and Listening 72
The Importance of Critical Thinking to Listening 73

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