THE ART OF

PUBLIC SPEAKING

2023 RELEASE



STEPHEN E. LUCAS
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2023 RELEASE

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THE ART OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

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He has also received a number of teaching awards, including the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching at the University of Wisconsin and the National Communication Association's Donald H. Ecroyd Award for Outstanding Teaching in Higher Education. His many pedagogical innovations have had a profound influence in the United States and beyond, and *The Art of Public Speaking* has been translated into multiple languages, including Chinese, Portuguese, Korean, Romanian, and Japanese.

Professor Lucas and his wife, Patty, split their time between Madison, Wisconsin, and Naples, Florida. They have two sons and four granddaughters.



Stephen E. Lucas

aul Stob is Professor of Communication Studies at Vanderbilt University. A scholar of rhetorical criticism and American public address, his books include William James and the Art of Popular Statement and Intellectual Populism: Democracy, Inquiry, and the People, which received the James A. Winans-Herbert A. Wichelns Memorial Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Rhetoric and Public Address from the National Communication Association.

An accomplished teacher, Professor Stob teaches courses on public speaking, social movements, and American public address. He has received Vanderbilt's Jeffrey Nordhaus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Faculty Advisor Award in the Humanities. This is his first edition as co-author of *The Art of Public Speaking*.

Paul Stob lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with his wife, Sarah. They have one son, Elliott, and two dogs, Missy and Reggie.



Vanderbilt University



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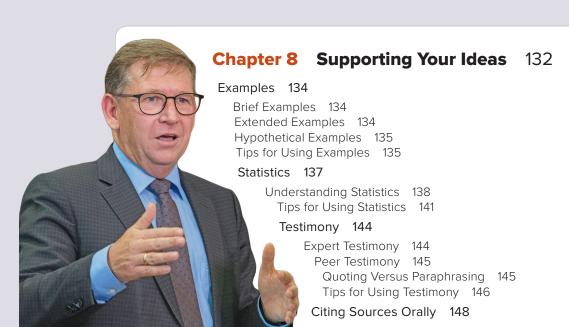
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A Note from the Authors

hen the first edition of *The Art of Public Speaking* was published in 1983, no one could have anticipated the extraordinary response it would receive. We are deeply appreciative of the students and teachers who have made it the leading work on its subject at colleges and universities across the United States and around the world.

In preparing this update, we have retained what readers have identified as the main strengths of the book. It is informed by classical and contemporary theories of rhetoric, but it does not present theory for its own sake. Keeping a steady eye on the practical skills of public speaking, it offers full coverage of all major aspects of speech preparation and presentation.

It also follows David Hume's advice that one "who would teach eloquence must do it chiefly by examples." Whenever possible, we have tried to show the principles of public speaking in action in addition to describing them. Thus you will find in the book a large number of narratives, speech excerpts, and full sample speeches that illustrate the principles of effective public speaking.

Because the immediate task facing students is to present speeches in the classroom, we rely heavily on examples that relate directly to students' classroom needs and experiences. The speech classroom, however, is a training ground where students develop skills that will serve them throughout life. Therefore, we also include a large number of illustrations drawn from the kinds of speaking experiences students will face after they graduate from college.

Because speeches are performative acts, students need to be able to view speakers in action as well as to read their words on the printed page. *The Art of Public Speaking* has an extensive video program that is available on Connect, McGraw Hill's online learning platform. The video program includes 53 full student speeches, plus more than 80 speech excerpts. Nine of the full speeches and 19 of the excerpts are new to this update.

Connect also provides a wide range of teaching and learning resources in addition to the speech videos. These resources include SmartBook, Video Capture powered by GoReact, hands-on study tools, critical-thinking exercises, speech-analysis questions, worksheets, assessment forms, and more. Taken together, *The Art of Public Speaking* and the digital resources available on Connect provide a time-tested interactive public speaking program that meets the needs of students and teachers alike.

The Art of Public Speaking has changed over the years in response to changes in technology, student demographics, and instructional needs. But it has never lost sight of the fact that the most important part of speaking is thinking. The ability to think critically is vital to a world in which personality and image too often substitute for thought and substance. While helping students become capable, responsible speakers, The Art of Public Speaking also aims to help them become capable, responsible thinkers who value the role of civil discourse in a democratic society.

Highlights of the 2023 Release of The Art of Public Speaking

The award-winning *Art of Public Speaking* offers a time-tested approach that has made it the most widely used college textbook on its subject in the world. Seamlessly coordinated with Connect, McGraw Hill's pathbreaking online program, it supplies a proven set of teaching and learning tools that is without parallel among public speaking books.

For experienced instructors, *The Art of Public Speaking* presents a solid, fully customizable foundation and an abundance of teaching aids from which to choose, allowing for complete flexibility in the course. For novice instructors, its wisdom, steady hand, and unmatched ancillary package instill confidence and build success in the classroom from day one.

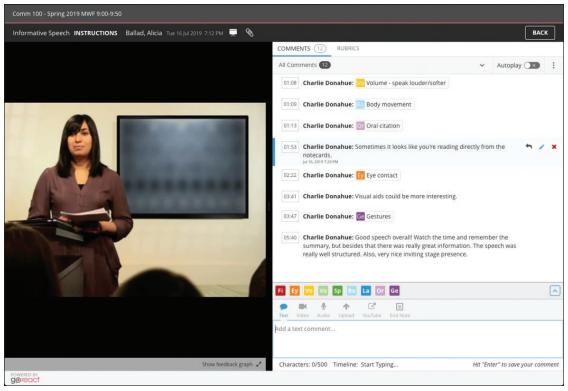
- Expanded chapter on presenting online speeches. Building on the innovative coverage of online speaking in the previous edition, this fully updated chapter gives students the guidance they need to make effective online presentations. Distinguishing between recorded and real-time online speeches, it explains the unique features of each and how students can adapt to those features when preparing, rehearsing, and delivering their speeches. Practical guidelines help students control the visual environment, create a suitable relationship with the online audience, and use online presentation software skillfully and professionally. The chapter also contains a new section devoted to optimizing visual aids in online speeches. Three full sample speeches with commentary—one in this chapter, one in Chapter 4, and one in Chapter 15—illustrate the principles of effective online speaking in action. Videos of the speeches are available on Connect in both final and needs improvement versions.
- New full student speeches. The Art of Public Speaking video program is designed to bridge the gap between the written page and the spoken word. Toward this end, the 2023 Release has nine new full speeches for analysis and discussion, all of which are available in both print and digital formats. They include three new introductory speeches, a new informative speech, and two new persuasive speeches—plus three new needs improvement speeches. Two of the new speeches also provide models of online public speaking.
- Other video resources. The Art of Public Speaking's video program also includes more than 80 speech excerpts that are fully integrated into the eBook. Students can access these excerpts—along with full speeches—as they read the book to see the principles of public speaking in action. Whether a full speech or an excerpt, each video illustrates specific skills and concepts from the text.
- Fresh real-world examples. Every chapter of *The Art of Public Speaking* opens with an engaging and relevant example, and dozens of additional examples appear throughout the chapters, each demonstrating the importance—and art—of public speaking in school, business, and social settings. As in every edition, examples have been updated for currency, relevance, and interest.

- Updated MLA and APA citation models. Chapter 7, on gathering materials, presents all-new sample bibliography entries, reflecting the latest MLA and APA citation formats to help students correctly cite academic, digital, and other sources. As in each edition, the chapter as a whole has been revised to reflect technological changes.
- Enhanced discussion of presentation technology. Guidance on the use of visual aids and presentation technology has been updated in accord with current developments. This guidance can be found both in the chapter on visual aids and in the chapter on presenting speeches online. Best practices are illustrated by abundant examples in the book and in speech videos.

Resources for Instructors

- Annotated Instructor's Edition. The Annotated Instructor's Edition provides a wealth of teaching aids for each chapter in the book. It is also cross-referenced with Connect, the *Instructor's Manual*, and other supplements that accompany *The Art of Public Speaking*.
- Instructor's Manual. This comprehensive guide to teaching from *The Art of Public Speaking* contains suggested course outlines and speaking assignments; chapter outlines; supplementary exercises and classroom activities; and teaching tips for all exercises and activities.
- **Test Bank.** The Test Bank furnishes close to 3,000 exam questions based on *The Art of Public Speaking*.
- PowerPoint Slides with Video Clips. The PowerPoint presentations for *The Art of Public Speaking* provide chapter highlights that help instructors create focused, individualized lesson plans utilizing high-quality slides developed specifically for this update.
- **Digital Instructional Materials.** McGraw Hill's Connect provides access to a host of digital resources, including the *Instructor's Manual*, Test Bank, Power-Point Slides, *Teaching Public Speaking Online, Selections from the Communication Teacher*, and the *Handbook for Teachers of Non-Native Speakers of English*.
- Speeches for Analysis and Discussion. Available through Connect, this invaluable resource presents 53 full-length student speeches, 9 of which are new to this updated edition. Included are 12 sets of paired needs improvement and final version presentations. In each set, the needs improvement version illustrates a work-in-progress that can be compared with the final version to help students understand the differences between an ordinary speech and a superior one.

■ Video Capture Powered by GoReact. Designed for use in face-to-face, real-time classrooms, as well as in online courses, Video Capture allows instructors to evaluate their students' speeches using fully customizable rubrics. Instructors can also create and manage peer review assignments and upload videos on behalf of students for optimal flexibility.



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Acknowledgments

"Tis the good reader," said Ralph Waldo Emerson, "that makes the good book." We have been fortunate to have very good readers indeed, and we would like to thank the reviewers and other contributors for their expertise and recommendations.

In addition, we would like to express our gratitude to Ananda Deacon, Casey Kaplan, Terrie Sanchez, and other students at the University of Wisconsin whose speeches provided the material for many of the examples in the book. We are grateful as well to the teaching staff of Communication Arts 100 and to Sarah Jedd, assistant course director, for her splendid work in that capacity and for her insights about the book and its pedagogy.

Thanks go to Ann Weaver for her work on the *Instructor's Manual* and the Test Bank; to Jennifer Cochrane for her generous advice about the online speaking chapter; to Jeffrey Fox for his insights about online public speaking and visual aids in the online environment; and to Juliana Urtubey for permission to print her speech accepting the National Teacher of the Year Award, which appears in Chapter 18.

We have been fortunate to work with many talented people at McGraw Hill, including Katie Stevens, Sarah Remington, Betty Chen, Dawn Groundwater, Natalie Graner, Danielle Clement, Vanessa McClune, Sarah Flynn, Susan Gall, and Ira Chawala.

Our biggest debt goes to Patty Lucas and Sarah Stob, whose love and support have sustained us and made this update possible. There might be an *Art of Public Speaking* without them, but it would be poorer indeed.

Stephen E. Lucas Madison, Wisconsin

Paul Stob Nashville, Tennessee

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The Art of Public Speaking





Speaking in Public

The Power of Public Speaking

The Tradition of Public Speaking

Public Speaking and Conversation

Developing Confidence: Your Speech Class

Public Speaking and Critical Thinking

The Speech Communication Process

Public Speaking in a Culturally Diverse World

pathbreaking medical doctor, Nadine Burke Harris is also a world-class public speaker—an unusual combination, but one that has changed her life and improved medical care for millions of children.

Growing up in the San Francisco Bay area, Nadine dreamed of becoming a doctor, a dream she realized when she finished her studies and joined the California Pacific Medical Center in 2005. Specializing in pediatrics, she devoted herself to helping children in disadvantaged communities. In 2012 she founded the Center for Youth Wellness to provide an innovative approach to pediatric care. Today the center and Dr. Burke Harris are recognized around the world for their pioneering work on how childhood trauma and chronic stress can affect lifelong health conditions.

To accomplish all of this, Dr. Burke Harris needed more than medical expertise. She needed to be a public speaker who could advocate for her cause. She needed to persuade community partners and the city of San Francisco to back the Center for Youth Wellness. She needed to convince her colleagues in public health that her approach to treating childhood trauma would work. And she needed to raise money to keep the center productive once it was up and running.

All of this required her to communicate with people through public speaking—and communicate she did. She's been called a "brilliant speaker and advocate" who can engage "a room of a thousand people in a way that makes you feel like you're having a one-on-one conversation with her." As Dr. Burke Harris herself explains, "I see myself as a professional athlete, but my sport is public speaking."





If you had asked Dr. Burke Harris when she was in medical school, "Do you see yourself becoming an important public speaker?" she would have laughed at the idea. Yet today, she has spoken at the White House, testified before Congress, presented at public health conferences in the United States and abroad, and lectured at Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, and many other universities. Her TED Talk, titled "How Childhood Trauma Affects Health Across a Lifetime," has been viewed more than nine million times.

The Power of Public Speaking

Throughout history people have used public speaking as a vital means of communication. What the Greek leader Pericles said more than 2,500 years ago is still true today: "One who forms a judgment on any point but cannot explain" it clearly "might as well never have thought at all on the subject." Public speaking, as its name implies, is a way of making your ideas public—of sharing them with other people and of influencing other people.

During modern times, many women and men around the globe have spread their ideas and influence through public speaking. In the United States, the list includes Franklin Roosevelt, Billy Graham, Cesar Chavez, Barbara Jordan, Martin Luther King, Ronald Reagan, Hillary Clinton, and Barack Obama. In other countries, we have seen the power of public speaking employed by people such as Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela, and Malala Yousafzai.

As you read these names, you may think to yourself, "That's fine. Good for them. But what does that have to do with me? I don't plan to be a president or a preacher or a crusader for any cause." Nevertheless, the need for public speaking will almost certainly touch you sometime in your life—maybe tomorrow, maybe not for five years. Can you imagine yourself in any of these situations?

You are one of seven management trainees in a large corporation with offices across the globe. One of you will get the lower-management job that has just opened. At a large staff meeting held on Zoom, you and the other trainees will each discuss the project you have been developing. One by one your colleagues make their presentations. They lack experience with public speaking and are intimidated by the higher-ranking managers present. Their speeches are stumbling and awkward. You, however, call upon the skills you learned in your public speaking course. You deliver an informative talk that is clear, well reasoned, and articulate. You get the job.

One of your children has a learning disability. You hear that your local school board has decided, for budget reasons, to eliminate the special teacher who has been helping your child. At an open meeting of the school board, you stand up and deliver a thoughtful, compelling speech on the necessity for keeping the special teacher. The school board changes its mind.

You are the assistant regional director of a major nonprofit organization. Your immediate superior is about to retire, and there will be a retirement dinner. Everyone on the board of directors will attend, and you are asked to give a farewell toast. You prepare and deliver a speech that is both witty and moving—a perfect tribute to your boss. After the speech, everyone

applauds enthusiastically. The following week you are named the new regional director.

Fantasies? Not really. Any of these situations could occur. In a recent survey of more than 550 corporate recruiters, 80 percent cited skills such as public speaking as the most important factor for success after graduation. In another survey, 1,200 job recruiters reported that one skill was more important and harder to find than any other. That skill? Effective communication.²

The importance of such skills is true across the board—for accountants and architects, teachers and technicians, scientists and stockbrokers. Even in highly specialized fields such as civil and mechanical engineering, employers consistently rank the ability to communicate above technical knowledge when deciding whom to hire and whom to promote.

Businesses are also asking people to give more speeches in the early stages of their careers, and many young professionals are using public speaking as a way to stand out in today's highly competitive job market.³ In fact, the ability to speak effectively is so prized that college graduates are increasingly being asked to give a presentation as part of their job interview.

Nor has the growth of the internet and other new technologies reduced the need for public speaking. In this age of TikTok and Twitter, businesses are concerned that college graduates are losing the ability to talk in a professional way. As career expert Lindsey Pollak states, "It's so rare to find somebody who has that combination of really good technical skills and really good verbal communication skills. You will be head and shoulders above your colleagues if you can combine those two."

The same is true in community life. Public speaking is a vital means of civic engagement. It is a way to express your ideas and to have an impact on issues that matter in society. As a form of empowerment, it can—and often does—make a difference in things people care about very much. The key phrase here is "make a difference." This is what most of us want to do in life—to make a difference, to change the world in some small way. Public speaking offers you an opportunity to make a difference in something you care about very much.

The Tradition of Public Speaking

Given the importance of public speaking, it's not surprising that it has been taught and studied around the globe for thousands of years. Almost all cultures have an equivalent of the English word "orator" to designate someone with special skills in public speaking. The oldest known handbook on effective speech was written on papyrus in Egypt some 4,500 years ago. Eloquence was highly prized in ancient India, Africa, and China, as well as among the Aztecs and other pre-European cultures of North and South America.⁵

In classical Greece and Rome, public speaking played a central role in education and civic life. It was also studied extensively. Aristotle's *Rhetoric*, composed during the third century B.C., is still considered the most important work on its subject, and many of its principles are followed by speakers (and writers) today. The great Roman leader Cicero used his speeches to defend liberty and wrote several works about oratory in general.

Over the centuries, many other notable thinkers have dealt with issues of rhetoric, speech, and language—including the Roman educator Quintilian, the Christian preacher St. Augustine, the medieval writer Christine de Pizan, the British philosopher Francis Bacon, and the poet activist Audre Lorde. In recent years, communication researchers have provided an increasingly scientific basis for understanding the methods and strategies of effective speech.

Your immediate objective is to apply those methods and strategies in your classroom speeches. What you learn, however, will be applicable long after you leave college. The principles of public speaking are derived from a long tradition and have been confirmed by a substantial body of research. The more you know about those principles, the more effective you will be in your own speeches—and the more effective you will be in listening to the speeches of other people.

Public Speaking and Conversation

The average adult spends about 30 percent of his or her waking hours in conversation. By the time you read this book, you will have spent many hours perfecting the art of conversation. If you communicate well in daily talk, you can learn to communicate well in public speaking.

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN PUBLIC SPEAKING AND CONVERSATION

You may not realize it, but public speaking requires many of the same skills used in ordinary conversation. These skills include:

- 1. Organizing your thoughts logically. Suppose you are giving someone directions to your apartment. You don't convey the directions in random order. Instead, you take your listener systematically, step by step, from his or her apartment to your apartment. You organize your message.
- 2. Tailoring your message to the audience. Imagine that you are a biology major. Two people ask you how pearls are formed. One is your uncle, who majored in science as a college student. The other is your nine-year-old niece. You answer as follows:

To your uncle: "When any irritant, say a grain of sand, gets inside the oyster's shell, the oyster automatically secretes a substance called nacre, which is mostly calcium carbonate. The nacre accumulates around the irritant core to form the pearl."

To your niece: "Imagine you're an oyster on the ocean floor. A grain of sand gets inside your shell and makes you uncomfortable. So you decide to cover it up. The covering builds up around the grain of sand to make a pearl."

- 3. *Telling a story for maximum impact*. Suppose you are telling a friend about a funny incident at last week's track meet. You don't begin with the punch line ("Dani fell out of the stands right onto the track. Here's how it started. . . ."). Instead, you carefully build up your story, adjusting your words and tone of voice to get the best effect.
- 4. Adapting to listener feedback. Whenever you talk with someone, you are aware of that person's verbal, facial, and physical reactions. For example, when you tell your boyfriend or girlfriend that you need to study instead of going to a movie



Many skills used in conversation also apply in public speaking. As you learn to speak more effectively, you may also learn to communicate more effectively in other situations.

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on Saturday night, you notice an unmistakable look of unhappiness on their face. So you say, "Okay, let's go to the early show; then I can study later."

Each day, in casual conversation, you do all these things many times without thinking about them. You already possess these communication skills, all of which are among the most important skills you will need for public speaking.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PUBLIC SPEAKING AND CONVERSATION

Despite their similarities, public speaking and everyday conversation are not identical. Imagine you are telling a story to a friend. Then imagine yourself telling the story to a group of seven or eight friends. Now imagine telling the same story to 20 or 30 people. As the size of your audience grows, you will find yourself adapting to three major differences between conversation and public speaking:

- 1. Public speaking is more highly structured. It usually imposes strict time limitations on the speaker. In most cases, the situation does not allow listeners to interrupt with questions or commentary. The speaker must accomplish her or his purpose in the speech itself. When preparing the speech, the speaker must anticipate questions that might arise in the minds of listeners and answer them. Consequently, public speaking demands much more detailed planning and preparation than ordinary conversation.
- 2. Public speaking requires more formal language. Slang, jargon, and bad grammar have little place in public speeches. Even as dress codes and social mores have become more informal, listeners usually react negatively to speakers who do not elevate and polish their language when addressing an audience. A speech should be "special."
- 3. Public speaking requires a different method of delivery. When conversing informally, most people talk quietly, interject stock phrases such as "well" and "you

know," adopt a casual posture, and use what are called vocalized pauses ("uh," "er," "um"). Effective public speakers, however, adjust their voices to be heard clearly throughout the audience. They assume a more erect posture. They avoid distracting mannerisms and verbal habits.

With study and practice, you will master these differences and expand your conversational skills into speechmaking. Your speech class will provide the opportunity for this study and practice.

Developing Confidence: Your Speech Class

stage frightAnxiety over the prospect of

giving a speech in front of an audience.

One of the major concerns of students in any speech class is stage fright. We may as well face the issue squarely. Stage fright is a universal phenomenon that cuts across language, culture, and national borders. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld once famously said, "Given a choice at a funeral, most of us would rather be the one in the coffin than the one giving the eulogy."

Seinfeld was speaking in jest. Yet many people who converse easily in all kinds of everyday situations become terrified at the prospect of standing in front of an audience to give a speech. In one survey of more than 1,000 undergraduate students, 64 percent reported being fearful of public speaking, while 89 percent believed their school should provide public speaking instruction.⁶

In a different study, researchers concentrated on social situations and asked respondents to list their greatest fears. Here is the ranking of their answers:⁷

Greatest Fear

Public speaking

Speaking up in a meeting or class

Meeting new people

Talking to people in authority

Important examination or interview

Going to parties

Talking with strangers

Not only did public speaking top the list, but it was joined by other forms of communication anxiety.

NERVOUSNESS IS NORMAL

If you feel nervous about giving a speech, you are in very good company. Some of the greatest public speakers in history have suffered from stage fright, including Abraham Lincoln, Margaret Sanger, and Winston Churchill. The famous Roman orator Cicero said, "I turn pale at the outset of a speech and quake in every limb and in my soul."

Jennifer Lawrence, Harrison Ford, and Naomi Osaka all report being anxious about speaking in public. Early in his career, Leonardo DiCaprio was so nervous about giving an acceptance speech that he hoped he would not win the Academy Award for which he had been nominated. Eighty-one percent of business executives say public speaking is the most nerve-wracking experience they face.⁹

Actually, most people tend to be anxious before doing something important in public. Actors are nervous before a play, politicians are nervous before a campaign speech, athletes are nervous before a big game. The ones who succeed have learned to use their nervousness to their advantage.

Listen to U.S. gymnastics star Suni Lee at the 2021 Summer Olympics, held in Tokyo, Japan. "I'm really nervous," she said before the competition, which she described as "very hard and stressful. . . . But I just had to go out there and have the best competition of my life." Putting her butterflies to good use, Lee did exactly that, winning the women's all-around gold medal at the biggest sporting event in the world.

Much the same thing happens in speechmaking. Most experienced speakers have stage fright before taking the floor, but their nervousness is a healthy sign that they are getting "psyched up" for a good effort. Novelist and lecturer I. A. R. Wylie once said: "I rarely rise to my feet without a throat constricted with terror and a furiously thumping heart. When, for some reason, I *am* cool and self-assured, the speech is always a failure."

In other words, it is perfectly normal—even desirable—to be nervous at the start of a speech. Your body is responding as it would to any stressful situation—by producing extra adrenaline.

This sudden shot of adrenaline is what makes your heart race, your hands shake, your knees knock, and your skin perspire. Every public speaker experiences all these reactions to some extent. The question is: How can you control your nervousness and make it work for you rather than against you?

adrenaline

A hormone released into the bloodstream in response to physical or mental stress.

DEALING WITH NERVOUSNESS

Rather than trying to eliminate every trace of stage fright, you should aim at transforming it from a negative force into what one expert calls positive nervousness—"a zesty, enthusiastic, lively feeling with a slight edge to it. . . . It's still nervousness, but it feels different. You're no longer victimized by it; instead, you're vitalized by it. You're in control of it." ¹⁰

Don't think of yourself as having stage fright. Instead, think of it as "stage excitement" or "stage enthusiasm." It can help you get focused and energized in the same way as it helps athletes, musicians, and others get primed for a game or a concert. Jane Lynch, talking about her gig hosting *Saturday Night Live*, said that she got through it with "that perfect cocktail of nervousness and excitement." Think of that cocktail as a normal part of giving a successful speech.

Here are six time-tested ways you can turn your nervousness from a negative force into a positive one.

Acquire Speaking Experience

You have already taken the first step. You are enrolled in a public speaking course, where you will learn about speechmaking and gain speaking experience. Think back to your first day in kindergarten, your first date, your first day at a new job. You were probably nervous in each situation because you were facing something new and unknown. Once you became accustomed to the situation, it was no longer threatening. So it is with public speaking. For most students, the biggest part of stage fright is fear of the unknown. The more you learn about public speaking and the more speeches you give, the less threatening speechmaking will become.

Of course, the road to confidence will sometimes be bumpy. Learning to give a speech is not much different from learning any other skill—it proceeds by trial and error.

positive nervousness

Controlled nervousness that helps energize a speaker for her or his presentation.