

## Newspaper Article Presentations

Public speaking is an important skill. In the same way that you will become a better writer by practising writing, you will become a better speaker by practising speaking. You will begin presenting, and **clarifying your opinion** about, articles of your choice from the newspaper section found on **Powerstudent.org**. The article can be anything that interests you, from sports to history to politics to food to events unfolding in Ottawa. Here is how it works:

You will write **seven** to **ten** facts you learn about from the article. These facts will be communicated to the rest of the class and should be: (1) **in your own words**;—do **NOT** simply read the article—(2) take **no longer** than **four** minutes to present; (3) in sentence form, and; (4) give your audience a clear sense of what the article is about. Try your best to memorize the facts. [But cue cards can be used if you wish. I have some to give you.] After the facts are presented, **say your opinion about the facts**. In other words, evaluate what the article presents. “**In my opinion ...**” or “**I believe ...**” might be two ways to begin this section of your speech. In short, we want to know both: (1) what the main ideas of your article are, and (2) **what you think about these ideas**. (3) your speech also needs to be accompanied by a visual aid, such as a Google Slide file—share it with me long before the due date. The visual aid that you create should **support** what you have to say. Refer to your visual aid from time to time during your speech.

Finally, ask your audience if they have any questions. “**Thank you! Are there any questions?**” is an effective way to finish your speech; it is a confident transition between the presentation itself and the question/answer section. Pick one or two students, and try to answer their questions.

I will not be marking the written component of your presentations; I will be marking the presentation itself, the media component, along with the process; that is, how much your speeches improve over the course of the year. We will be presenting 3 articles throughout the school year, roughly once every 12 weeks beginning at the end of November. Presentations will take place in the learning commons. Use the newspaper link noted above to choose an article that interests you. Essentially: (1) choose an article; (2) write your speech [**7 to 10 facts in sentence form & your opinion**], and (3) to practise your presentation several times at home in front of family members. If you wish, you are able to use a newspaper or magazine that you might have at home. Students will have several weeks notice to choose their article, write their speech, and to practise their speech at home. **All work is to be done at home**. Speech dates, like all important dates, are noted on our website. (Parents, we have just finished a practise round of speeches. Students were shown how to choose a newspaper article, how to highlight the main ideas, were given a sample of how to write a speech based on an article they chose. They also actually gave a speech in front of the class already. In addition, I modeled my own practise speech based on an article that I had chosen, fielding questions at the end. Finally, we have looked at two excellent videos about body language, videos that outline how our bodies communicate both to others and to ourselves. The TED talk we saw earlier can be found within the newspaper section of **Powerstudent.org**)

**I will be looking for the following points in your presentation:**

- Can people **CLEARLY** hear your voice—even at the back of the class/learning commons?
- Did you note the date and title and source of the article at the beginning?
- Is the summary / facts in your own words? (**Don't just read the article.**)
- Have you clearly outlined your opinion about the article? "*In my opinion...*"
- Do you have good eye-contact with your audience?
- Did you try to answer the questions posed by your audience?
- Do you present your opinion about the article clearly?
- Is your visual aid neat? Does it add to, or support, the points that you are making?

**A good audience:**

- Is respectful;
- Understands that everyone is nervous when speaking in front of an audience, and will be tolerant of mistakes;
- Is quiet and attentive;
- Is thinking of a positive comment to say at the end of the speech if asked;
- Shows appreciation by clapping at the end of the speech;
- Recognizes that the goal of the exercise is to become better speakers, to learn a little about our world using newspapers, and that risk taking, that is, trying new things (for example, projecting your voice in a different way, experimenting with volume, with gestures, eye contact, body movement, and different visual aids) is encouraged. Remember the Body Language video we saw and discussed earlier. In particular: gestures, congruence, eye contact, personal space, and facial expressions. This video is available from the Ottawa Public Library if you wanted to review the video at home as well.

**Body Language 1** DVD by Louise Welsh Schrank (2008) ISBN 1557405247 / 9781557405241

**[http://www.ted.com/talks/amy\\_cuddy\\_your\\_body\\_language\\_shapes\\_who\\_you\\_are](http://www.ted.com/talks/amy_cuddy_your_body_language_shapes_who_you_are)**