

## Advice to Future Students: Oral Communication with Pablo Martin

Each semester I ask my students to complete an anonymous survey at the end of the semester. Here are their unedited responses to the question, "What advice would you give to future students?"

1. My advice for future students would be not to be nervous about taking this class. Yes, presenting speeches is a big fear for many, including myself, but this class will help you overcome or at least lessen that fear. In addition, don't be scared of making mistakes since, like the professor says, this is the class you want to do that in. Through your mistakes, you will be able to learn and grow in order to avoid doing them in future speeches that will really matter such as at a job, at a wedding, etc. Furthermore, since you payed for this class, get as much out of it as you can. Show up everyday, pay attention, ask questions, and try your best. If you do these things you will get a good grade in the class and better your speaking skills for the future to come.
2. Pick topics that interest you—it's better for everyone!
3. Be yourself.
4. Prepare as much as possible before speech day and use the floor to inspire students. This is a chance for your voice to be heard.
5. Get your work done on time, do not procrastinate, and practice, practice, practice.
6. Always always practice your speech with someone. They will let you know that you are reading too much or that your slides look to crowded or that your pace should be adjusted. Make sure that the person you practice with is someone who is in or has taken a speech class because they know the requirements.
7. Know that everyone has a bad speech day!! Make sure to attend every class and complete all the writing/miscellaneous assignments, because those things build up and really help set a buffer for your grade.
8. Prepare for speech ahead of time. Also practice your speech OUTLOUD MULTIPLE TIMES (over and over and over) until it feels more natural, which will also reduce the stress and anxiety about presenting.
9. Do all the work! It might seem like a lot, but it is all beneficial and you will be able to build on your knowledge. Also, reading journals are way better than quizzes.
10. This class gives you the best opportunity to experiment on your delivery technique. Take advantage of that. Be adventurous and try different methods.
11. Take this course seriously, its not an easy A.
12. This class is an easy A if you apply yourself and do all the work that is required.
13. Get out of your comfort zone and communicate with the class.
14. I would say to really address any questions or concerns with Pablo or your classmates as soon as you have them and not worry about if it seems silly or not.
15. Read the book and do the journals instead of a reading quiz that way you have something to go back to as a reference when writing your speeches.
16. This class will be much more amusing and go by quite smoothly if you get to know/socialize with your classmates- after all it's called communication not isolation!
17. Read the course packet! Read it so many times!
18. Put yourself out there and its okay to mess up.
19. After everything said and done, best advice for the upcoming classes would be: shut up and do your work, nobody really cares that you're speaking, just get up there, deliver your speech, take the applause, because you killed it, it's over, breathe.
20. This is a good course and very beneficial. Above all, Professor Pablo is a great teacher who makes students work for their grades. If you have a problem let Professor Pablo know, he is very understanding. Just communicate with him and be genuine.
21. Do your assignments the day they were given not when they are due, don't wait until the day before!!! Pablo is a great professor and an inspiration of what I want to be like as a public speaker, it was a privilege to be in his class.
22. It's a great class! You will learn many things not only about speech but about yourself. Just don't leave everything for the last minute and make sure you read the material, it will help you deliver and prepare speeches better.
23. Don't put your speech on 50 note cards and read it.
24. Practice! Don't wait 'til the last minute! It will show! Even a read through of what your saying a few days before can help cement your speech in your memory.
25. Keep up on reading and DO NOT procrastinate, especially on the informative and persuasive speeches.

26. Make note cards. The note cards are far better than using the speaking outline. When you use note cards you look at the audience more, rather than reading from the outline.
27. Don't beat yourself up over a small slip up in your speech, let it go and finish the speech strong!
28. Look to use your time wisely on all assignments and work hard to apply the methods from each chapter to your speeches in class.
29. Keep up to date with all of the assignments!
30. Don't be shy. It's just talking.
31. Prepare early for the outline submissions.
32. I would advise future students to actually put in the effort for this class. Many dismiss this as "just a speech class," but you really can't slack off in this one. What you put in is what you get out. If you put in effort to become a better speaker, then you will see results near the end of the course.
33. Be ready to give a lot of speeches and realize that everyone in the class is as nervous as you are!
34. Try to do the extra credit if time permits
35. Practice your speech repeatedly
36. Don't underestimate yourself when giving your speech
37. Just stick with the class because it's chill, easy, and fun
38. The advice I would give to future students is to stay up to speed with all the reading and truly use all the opportunities we're given to evaluate ourselves and the way we communicate, listen, and perceive others.
39. Come into the class with an open mind and willingness to go out of your comfort zone because it will be helpful in the long run.
40. You get as much out of this class as you put in. If you keep up with the readings and assignments you will enjoy the class a lot more. ALWAYS PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS----> it keeps the class a lot more interesting.
41. Have a good time when in class, and when doing exercises. If you think of the work as just "school work" the class isn't as fun. Pablo's class is like Sesame Street for adults. You will have fun in class, and still learn something. And Pablo's personality can be related to Cookie Monster. He's gotta have those cookies!
42. Be open to anything. This class is FUN and a lot can be learned from it but only if you let yourself enjoy the process.
43. Always read the directions carefully. If you follow them meticulously you'll do great!
44. Do the work. Take good notes during the lecture. Participate in class. Plan ahead, and have fun!
45. Show up to class. You will regret it if you don't.
46. Pablo is tough and has high standards but they are attainable.
47. If you're shy, it's okay because the other 29 students are shy as well.
48. Have fun, and COMMUNICATE with Pablo!!! Be honest and straight up with him. If you tell him how it is, he will do his best to give you the benefit of the doubt.
49. My advice for the future class is that even when you hate an assignment, always think that it has a purpose, that it is designed to teach us something, and if you don't see it now you will see it later.
50. Just try to have fun and enjoy the class.
51. Use your time wisely! Putting off writing your rough drafts can seriously affect your writing process.
52. Breathe!
53. Just breathe before you present.
54. Put your heart into your work and speeches
55. Be confident. The speeches will get longer but seem to get easier and less stressful
56. Just work hard and you'll do fine.
57. If you just see things through to the end, you can make it. Keep trying!
58. Don't be overwhelmed, think long term and take one thing at a time. Everybody feels nervous like you. Pablo is very organized and fair, speaks our language, and can relate to anyone.
59. Always be on time and always keep in touch with the teacher
60. Just stay up to date with the assignments. Get all that you can from this class because it's only going to help us in our lives with anything from jobs to personal relationships.
61. Don't procrastinate!
62. Take advantage of the opportunity to be heard about issues that you would not normally have a chance to talk about with people.
63. Prepare for your speeches and do NOT procrastinate for you will pay.
64. More Colleague Advice

65. Use your time wisely and give yourself time to practice.
66. Just to make sure to not procrastinate and practice your speeches more than once. Always practice with powerpoints used so a slide doesn't unexpectedly show up and catch you off guard.
67. Start thinking about your community service project now. there is also a lot of practice rehearsal training whatever you want to call it involved here. you might find community service ridiculous at first but in the end its very enriching.
68. just do the work and respect each other and Pablo and your golden.
69. Let your personality shine through on all your speeches. Smile, breathe, and relax. Take advantage of the fact that you have everyone's attention. Be prepared. Have an awesome introduction every time. Follow directions carefully.
70. do the work it is worth it, and stick with the class and Pablo has a great personality and works with you if you inform him. open communication is the key in this class.
71. breathe. pablo knows what he is talking about!
72. DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! Also, no matter how little points an assignment is worth, do it anyway. It will really help in the end so you don't have to stress and worry about whether or not you're going to get the grade you wanted.
73. To do their work. Although some might not do things because they're only worth so many points but they add up in the end, plus take advantage of extra credit! To just breathe, just like the advice Pablo would give us. Don't be nervous because everyone else is in the same position as you are.
74. Don't wait until the last minute to write your speech.
75. You will get out of this course what you put in. This is not an easy class but you will become a better public speaker
76. Go to your classmates speeches when it's their turn to present. They are interesting and sometime watching what your classmates do bad or good is the best way to learn.
77. Pablo is a good man. Homework and assignments are fair. It's all up to you!
78. To practice all your speeches before the day of your speech so you are more confident.
79. Breathe!
80. Do the work and you'll pass
81. Do all the work and attend class.
82. Read the syllabus! Pablo isn't gonna explain assignments to you or even tell you when they are due he mainly just tells you to look at your community packet on how to do the assignments. Keep a planner or something to stay on top of all the speeches and work.
83. Pablo is a pretty cool teacher, keep it real with him and he'll do the same. He grades pretty hard so just follow his rubrics.
84. My advice is to rehearse your speeches even if you think you know it well. Also, to pick a good topic on the main speeches.
85. Yes, stay on top of assignments and never miss a speech day because it will cost you in the ling run, points are points.
86. Do not wait till the last minute to write a speech. It is nearly impossible to cram on speeches and when you get up to the stage it is all lost immediately.
87. As annoying as it may seem to do so, start working on speeches early. Even if you start on them 2 days before it's due instead of the day before, it will help out tremendously. The work load can be easily underestimated.
88. Prepare your speeches and practice ahead of times.
89. Any advice I could give to future students would to start preparing for your speech well ahead of time. Doing last minute research can be stressful. I found it a lot easier to give a speech on something I have been researching for awhile and have a good understanding of the topic before presenting. You can feel a lot more comfortable in front of everyone.
90. DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! And prepare for your speeches!!
91. Always prepare before you give your speech, because that will allow you to acquire more confidence. Also, make friends with everyone on the class, because once you are infront of everyone, that will make it easier to give your speech.
92. I suggest students to not wait til last minute to work on their speeches. I did it once, and it ruined my grade big time. To be honest, on the informative speech, I worked on it the day before, and I had a C on it. If you work on your speeches right when Pablo tells you to, DO IT! And also look into the book more. It actually helps a lot.

93. prepare for your speeches in advance and practice
94. Pay attention to Pablo, he knows his stuff! It's not the easiest class you'll ever take, but it really is beneficial and will turn you into a better public speaker than you could've ever imagined. Stay focused and complete all of the assignments and you will see significant improvements.
95. Enjoy the class instead of dreading it! Make sure to learn things about your classmate because it allows for a better experience in the class, and makes it easier to present to them.
96. Don't procrastinate on outlines and follow rubrics!!!
97. Pick topics that you care about and that are unique.
98. Come to every class, and don't come late or leave early.
99. My advice for future students would be to just have fun in this course and do all the required work. Also, allow yourself to make mistakes and not worry about giving a perfect speech, if you do this you will realize that by putting aside the negative thoughts you will end up giving a wonderful speech.
100. Do the reading, and rehearse your speeches.
101. I would recommend paying attention to your time management. It was much easier for me the earlier I began the assignment. Pay attention to reading, there are good examples of delivering a good speech.
102. Don't wait last minute to do your speeches. And always practice in front of a live person. Friends, family, etc. Just doing it by yourself in front of nobody doesn't help as much as doing it in front of a real person because you get real feedback. If not, then try to do it in front of a mirror so that you can see how you give a speech (if you fidget too much or look down too much, etc.)
103. Don't put off speeches to the last minute, practicing really does make a difference.
104. I have friends that tried to get me to drop this class and add into their speech class because their class only had to do 3 major speeches this whole semester, and although I get nervous just like everyone else and how I would've loved an easy "A," I think that the only way to be a better speaker is to actually go out there and speak. Go up there, build a bridge and get over it, getting comfortable around others, socializing and being open to one another will really help one be a better speaker.
105. Read the book, practice, use time wisely, and use your resources like office hours and peer outline workshops.
106. Be open-minded, be yourself, and try and have as much fun as possible with each presentation you give.
107. Don't procrastinate, practice, and try to be calm.
108. Practice a lot before giving your speech. Always organize your speech and have confidence.
109. Work through the semester with a positive attitude and be open to change and opinion. This class is very easy to build confidence when speaking. Even if you feel you're a great speaker, there is always room for improvement. Do all of the work on time and just be yourself!
110. Prepare in advance and do not procrastinate. The stress of presenting is much worse without the confidence of practice.
111. Breathe and be with your audience, just like Pablo says! It really does help and he knows what he's talking about. Go to every class and you'll be just fine.
112. Utilize the Course Resource Page, practice your speech ahead of time, do not wait till the last day or minute, and breathe and have fun.
113. Research your topic, don't wait till the last minute to write your speech it will show. Be friendly to other students and be a good audience member. Make sure you don't talk about the same things as other students, keep the speeches interesting and fun. Make sure everyone knows who you are as a person, don't go over your time, let others criticize your work without any remorse or grudges.