

Rhetoric may be defined as the faculty of observing in any given case the available means of persuasion. This is not a function of any other art. Aristotle

Rhetoric II

"The Art of Public Speaking"

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Course Description:

Like all Rhetoric classes at Westminster, the primary focus of this class is to develop students' abilities in the area of discourse- both written and oral- though there will be a **considerable** and obvious emphasis on the art of speaking. As students in Rhetoric II, you will often find yourselves speaking in front of the class- alone and in groups, in both casual and formal settings. We will also have a number of experts in the realm of public speaking come in to help you work on your skills, including our own Ms. Eubanks.

Grading and Assignments:

A number of speeches will be delivered during the first three quarters. If there are any writing assignments, please know that late writing assignments will be penalized 11% per day. *Please note that any technical difficulties must be brought to your teacher's attention at least 24 hours prior to the assignment's due date or it will be counted as late and penalized accordingly.*

Classroom Decorum:

Please follow diligently the expectations set forth in this class. Class participation is both expected and vital in this class and should be respectful above all else. *A note on **plagiarism**: misrepresenting another's work as your own will not be tolerated. Such actions by a student will almost certainly result in a zero on the assignment, a detention, and possibly other consequences deemed necessary by the administration.

Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something.
Plato

Class Overview: (this overview is approximate in nature and should not be considered the “final word” in any way)

First, Second, and Third Quarters:

work on skills and aspects of public speaking (eg, spontaneous speeches, interviews, storytelling, formal speeches, dramatic presentations, etc.)

Fourth Quarter:

create an argument and present and defend that argument within a medium of your choosing (eg, photography, art, video, short film, etc.)

I have often and seriously debated with myself whether men and communities have received more good or evil from oratory and a consuming devotion to eloquence. Cicero