



The Eight Competencies of Public Speaking

Preparation

Competency 1: Topic

Is your topic tailored specifically to your assignment, audience, and speech purpose? Is your topic clear, narrow, and appropriate for your time constraints?

Competency 2: Thesis

Do you clearly state your topic, main points, the goal/intended result of your speech in your introduction?

Competency 3: Supporting Material

Do you back up your points and demonstrate credibility? Do you include cited examples, statistics, anecdotes, definitions, etc., to support your main points? Do you have an effective, non-distracting visual aid?

Competency 4: Organizational Pattern

Does your speech follow an appropriate format of an introduction, body, and conclusion? Are there proper transitions to move you clearly from one point to the next? Does the introduction engage your audience? Does the conclusion bring impactful closure to your speech?

Delivery

Competency 5: Language

Are your words clear, vivid, and appropriate? Can your audience understand your speech based on your word choice?

Competency 6: Vocalics

Do you have appropriate conversational variety in your rate, volume, pitch, and tone? Are your vocals exceptionally and appropriately well-paced, easily heard by all audience members, and varied in pitch to enhance the message?

Competency 7: Pronunciation, Grammar, and Articulation

Is your speech delivery free from vocal clutter of filler words like “um” and “so”? Are you pronouncing, structuring, and articulating your words clearly and correctly?

Competency 8: Physical Behaviors

Do you use motivated movement and intentional hand gestures for maximum impact? Are you dressed appropriately? Are you maintaining eye contact and confident posture?

Need more information or assistance?

Schedule an appointment with the [Excel Multiliteracy Center](http://multiliteracy.uccs.edu). We are here to provide one-on-one and group assistance to any and all UCCS students!