ESU SKILLS GUIDE

DELIVERING A SPEECH PERSUASIVELY

#esufestivalofspeaking

Body

- Use your hands to communicate with the audience by making gestures to emphasise things, but don't just wave them around!
- Don't be afraid to move around during your speech, especially as you are moving from one part of your speech to the next, but don't rock from side to side.
- Stand in a way that makes you feel confident and comfortable

Words

- Make sure you explain things clearly using words people can understand.
- If you need to use any technical words, explain what they mean.
- Choose your words carefully, to help support your point of view – is the classroom "packed with rowdy screaming kids" or, "full of happy excited children"?
- Put your words together into interesting and memorable sentences (sometimes this is called rhetoric), for example "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind", (said by the first man to land on the moon).

Voice

- Speak in a way that feels natural for you – you don't need to put on a special voice.
- Don't speak too fast, and try to vary the speed that you speak at.
- Make sure you use pauses, especially between different parts of your speech – don't feel you need to say "um" or "err" to fill the gap.
- Speak loudly enough that everyone in the audience can hear but not too loudly if you are in a small room!
- Vary the way you speak by using different tones: are you angry? surprised? disappointed? excited?

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Face and eyes

- The easiest way to keep the audience interested is to look them in the eye – make sure you are looking at them and not down at your notes.
- Use the expression on your face to match what you are saying – if you are using an angry tone of voice then your face needs to look angry too.
- Don't forget to smile at the audience – try to look like you are enjoying yourself!

Plan. Practise. Perform. Post!

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