Spoken Word Presentation

**Presentation Dates : Dec. 4th-5th**

The purpose of the Spoken Word Presentation is to honour the many different types of speaking that people are required to do in their daily lives. Your goal is to combine the expressive and dramatic reading of a poem and present it an interesting or entertaining way.

**Speaking Styles**

The Poetry Slam Finals will afford students three different styles in which to express themselves:

1. Poetry Slam
2. Storytelling
3. Rant
4. **Poetry Slam –2 -3 minutes**

**Description**: prepared performance poetry on thought- provoking idea using figurative language such as the following: pun, alliteration, personification, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, symbolism, imagery, and rhyme and sometimes synecdoche, allusion or irony. They often include recurring motifs or metaphors as per examples.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuAbGJBvIVY>

Sarah Kay - Hands

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfTa4B7wQ_8&feature=related>

Eric Darby “Scratch and Dent Dreams”

1. **Oral Storytelling**

Oral storytelling has been entertaining people for time immemorial. It can be used to communicate a lesson, a funny experience, or pass down knowledge. It can be used by families to pass down knowledge. For example, in First Nation’s culture, stories,

**☉**  can vary from the sacred to the historical.   
**☉** Some focus on social, political, and cultural ways.   
**☉** Some are entertaining, even humorous.   
**☉** Some tell of personal, family, community or an entire nation’s experiences.   
**☉** Some are “owned” by certain clans or families and can only be told by a member of that group.   
**☉** Others can be told by anyone who knows them and cares for them.   
**☉** Stories reflect the perceptions, relationships, beliefs and attitudes of a particular people.

[The Hummingbird - Haida story](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naj6zZakgEg)

You are to prepare a 2-3 minute story to share with the class. It should have a structure and weave between showing and telling. It can be about you or a family member or a story passed down through your family. It should follow the structure of a short story with a hook, setting, rising action, climax and denouement. The purpose should be explicit or inferred, depending on your intent.

1. **Rick Mercer Style Rant- 2-3 mins**

Editorial or commentary delivered in a convincing fashion. It is not a calm argument but one that is enthusiastically presented. It focused on an idea, a person or an institution. Can be based on fact but there is room for comedy and satire.

Rick Mercer Rant- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKtqHm_ygu0>

**Tips for writing according to George Orwell:** 

George Orwell has earned the right to be called one of the finer writers in the English language through such novels as *1984,* *Animal Farm,* and *Down and Out in Paris and London,* and essays like "Shooting an Elephant."  
  
A scrupulous writer, in every sentence that he writes, will ask himself at least four questions, thus:

1. **What am I trying to say?**
2. **What words will express it?**
3. **What image or idiom will make it clearer?**
4. **Is this image fresh enough to have an effect?**

And he will probably ask himself two more:

1. **Could I put it more shortly?**
2. **Have I said anything that is avoidably ugly?**

One can often be in doubt about the effect of a word or a phrase, and one needs rules that one can rely on when instinct fails. I think the following rules will cover most cases:

1. **Never use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.**
2. **Never use a long word where a short one will do.**
3. **If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out.**
4. **Never use the passive where you can use the active.** (“I write poetry” is better than “ I am writing poetry”)
5. **Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.**
6. **Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.**

Other tips:

* Use strong verbs and nouns, not just great adjectives. Eg. “strut” instead of “walked”
* Don’t rely on a thesaurus’ as the meaning doesn’t always match.
* Just write and then fix it later.

**Possible Topics**:

* “A love story to my…..”
* Body parts and their significance
* Emotions and their imagery
* Abstract nouns- can you describe them using sensory words?
* Social issues- personify them? Extend the metaphor? Sensory words?
* Personal issues. Attack them!

**Marking for Spoken Word/This I Believe/Rant**

Presenter name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Content**  Clearly chosen topic, uses blatant or inferred examples, uses Rant/This I Believe/Slam in the correct way.  (Rant has solution, This I Believe is an essay with support, Spoken Word has imagery and figurative language) | Exceeds  10/9 | Fully Meets  8/7.5 | Meets  7/6.5 | Minimally or Does Not Meet  6/5 |
| Speaker consistently uses correct techniques for type of writing. Stays on topic.  Writing is **very** creative, insightful and interesting. | Speaker usually uses correct techniques and stays on topic. Writing is creative and interesting. | Speaker sometimes uses the right techniques.  May stray from topic.  Writing is basic and fairly simple. Little insight | Speaker uses few writing techniques and often strays from their topic.  Writing is too short or too simple. |
| **Voice**  Tone, pitch, level, speed, pause, etc. | Effective | Moderately effective | Somewhat effective | Not effective |
| Speaker consistently uses and varies voice techniques. | Speaker usually uses and varies voice techniques. | Speaker sometimes uses and varies voice techniques. | Speaker seldom uses and varies voice techniques. |
| **Body Language/**  **Hand Gestures**  Moves around, uses whole body and/or hand gestures. | Effective | Moderately effective | Somewhat effective | Not effective |
| Speaker consistently uses body language and/or hand gestures while speaking. No distracting mannerisms. | Speaker usually uses body language and/or hand gestures while speaking. No distracting mannerisms. | Speaker sometimes uses body language and/or hand gestures while speaking.  Some distracting mannerisms. | Speaker seldom uses body language and/or hand gestures while speaking.  Some distracting mannerisms. |
| **Presentation**  Good flow, **maintains eye contact with audience**, does not break from the presentation of their poem.  Memorized. Within a reasonable time. | Effective | Moderately effective | Somewhat effective | Not effective |
| Speaker consistently maintains good flow, eye contact with audience, and does not break from the presentation of their poem. Mostly memorized.  Audience fully engaged.  About 2-3 minutes. | Speaker usually maintains good flow, eye contact with audience, and usually does not break from the presentation of their poem. Some memorization.  Audience engaged.  About 2-3 minutes. | Speaker sometimes maintains good flow, eye contact with audience, and sometimes breaks from the presentation of their poem.  No memorization.  Some audience engagement.  Too long or too short. | Speaker seldom maintains good flow, eye contact with audience, and often breaks from the presentation of their poem.  No memorization.  Some audience engagement.  Too long or too short. |