

The University of Southern Mississippi Speaking Center

What is the Speaking Center?

- We provide peer tutoring for formal and informal presentations, advice for participating in classroom discussions, and help with speech anxiety
- We provide access to audio and visual equipment (for practicing presentations), a video camera (for recording presentations), and speaking resources
- We lead workshops throughout the year on topics such as dealing with speech anxiety, turning a paper into a presentation, using visual aids, and effective speaking style
- We visit classes to give general advice on speaking or specific advice for your assignments
- And more...read on.

Who are we?

Our goal is to give voice to USM students. Realizing the importance of oral communication as a part of a well-rounded education, we provide consulting services to students, workshops on public speaking, and advice to faculty on the incorporation of oral assignments into a variety of courses.

At the Speaking Center, trained peer consultants (undergraduate and graduate Speech Communication students) provide assistance with oral presentations. Students may come to the center at any stage of their projects. Tutoring is free and is available during the hours posted Sunday through Friday.



In consulting sessions, students are encouraged to clarify and develop their ideas for effective oral communication or to work on presentation style and method.

Computers and audio and video equipment are available at the center for students and faculty.

Faculty are also invited to work with the director on developing oral assignments for courses, lecturing skills, and research presentations.

Where can you find us?

www.usm.edu/speakingcenter
speakingcenter@usm.edu

Facebook: "Southern Miss Speaking Center"

Hattiesburg: 601-266-4965, Cook 117
Gulf Park: 228-214-3413, GP Library, Suite 107

What do we offer faculty?

Although our focus is on helping students, the Speaking Center is also committed to assisting faculty. In addition to student tutoring, we can give in-class presentations about public speaking in general or your particular assignment (just contact us to schedule a day), help develop oral assignments and

grading rubrics for your courses, and give feedback to faculty on lecturing and research presentations (or provide the use of the center to use on your own). We have several speaking guide sheets (including grading suggestions for oral assignments, assignment ideas, etc.) available for faculty in the

Speaking Center or on our web site (see address on next page). Please contact the Speaking Center Director (Wendy Atkins-Sayre, ext. 6-4370 or wendy.atkins-sayre@usm.edu) or Gulf Coast Director (Casey Maugh, ext. 4-3309 or casey.maugh@usm.edu) for more information.



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GC: Gulf Park Library, Suite 107
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Visit our web site (and consider including this link in your syllabus):
www.usm.edu/speakingcenter

Speaking guide sheets available for speakers and faculty (all can be found in the center and on the web site):

- Audience analysis
- Basic speech outline
- Citing sources in a speech
- Debating
- Delivery tips
- Design and grade oral assignments
- General tips for speaking
- Group presentations
- Interviewing
- Introductions and conclusions
- Leading a discussion
- Oral interpretation
- PowerPoint
- Presenting a paper
- Question and answer tips
- Self-evaluation of presentations
- Speaking as an International Student
- Speech anxiety
- Transitions in presentations
- Using debate assignments
- And more...check our web site and the center for new guide sheets

Faculty Development Seminar

As part of the University's QEP, we participate in a faculty development seminar. Focused on improving oral and written communication competencies, the 10-week seminar discusses theory behind communication across the curriculum, designing, supporting, and grading oral and written assignments. For more information, see the QEP web site: www.usm.edu/qep

How can you incorporate oral assignments into your courses?

Most of us recognize the importance of being able to express our ideas orally. Getting students to competently approach this type of assignment is another matter. In addition to the typical "end-of-semester project" presentations, here are a few ideas for adding oral components to your courses:

- Presenting "position papers" throughout the semester—a low risk, informal presentation of short papers
- Mini debates or counterpoints on position papers—presenting opposing or different viewpoints
- Informal or formal discussions of projects in progress—this helps to stimulate class discussion of research and push the project along
- Mini-lectures covering alternative readings, contemporary connections, or counter-points—students can sign up for topics early in the semester
- Group presentations—on group projects or special topics
- In-class debates—individual or group

For more ideas or for advice on designing oral assignments, get in touch with the Speaking Center Director, Wendy Atkins-Sayre or Casey Maugh, or visit the Speaking Center website: www.usm.edu/

Get in touch with us

Please contact us with any questions that you have about the center. We can set up an appointment to meet with you to discuss particular assignments and the type of tutoring advice that you would like us to give to your students, schedule individual appointments with the Speaking Center Director to discuss the development of assignments, or plan a tour of the center for you and/or your class.

Speaking Center Director:

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Gulf Park Director

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