

**SPEECH COMPETENCY EXAM**  
(\$20 non-refundable fee)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Design and deliver an **eight-minute persuasive speech** that advocates an attitude, belief, value, action, or proposal to a **specific audience**. Although you will give the speech in front of a single judge and a video camera, you are to speak to the judge as if s/he is a member of one of the following social groups:

- Business group (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, Union)
- Educational group (e.g., PTA, School Board, Teacher's Union)
- Political group (e.g., lobbyists, party members, legislators)

Before you begin the speech, the judge will ask you which specific group is selected. You are free to choose whatever topic you believe would be relevant to the audience, but you must **choose a topic drawn from current issues in the news**. For example, you may choose a topic on media issues and select "state representatives" as your target audience. You then could advocate that state representatives adopt a policy of regulating hate speech on the web. To make sure your topic is current, the judge will expect you to refer to a news article that has been published within **six weeks** of your speaking date.

Remember that within the context of this exam, an effective persuasive speech involves:

- ✓ **A clearly constructed thesis** (a specific outcome or idea that you want the audience to accept)
- ✓ **Clear organization of ideas and arguments** (with recognizable introduction, body of main points, conclusion)
- ✓ **Evidence and supporting material from reliable sources** (four sources required in this speech, including one from the news within six weeks of your speaking date, and one taken from an academic journal).
- ✓ **Extemporaneous delivery** (speech presented from a brief speaking outline or note cards)

**Outline:** Before presenting your speech, give a complete sentence outline of the speech to the judge. This outline is part of the competency exam and should display the following: a clear thesis sentence (labeled for easy reference), complete sentences (no sentence fragments) for all major points and all supporting points, a standard organizational pattern (e.g., problem/solution, motivated sequence, topical), accurate use of outline notation (e.g., I. A. 1. a., etc.), and footnotes, endnotes, or in-text citations indicating where in the outline a source is used to support a point (attach a reference sheet if necessary).

**Annotated Bibliography:** Attach to your outline an annotated bibliography for all sources cited in the speech. Your annotated bibliography should include a full listing of bibliographical information for each source used in the speech presentation and single paragraph summary of the content for each source listed. This is an important document to establish that your research for the speech is original and designed exclusively for the competency exam.

If the outline and annotated bibliography are unacceptable, the best you can receive on this exam is "Provisional Competency." You may move from "Provisional Competency" to "Competency Met" by correcting and re-submitting the outline/annotated bibliography within 12 days of your exam date.

**Delivery:** Extemporaneous delivery means the speech is delivered from note cards, or a brief speaking outline (*not* the complete sentence you provide for the judge). *Do not use a manuscript. Do not read the speech. Do not recite a memorized speech.* Extemporaneous speaking allows the speaker to adjust the message to the audience. Thus, the judge will expect your delivery to involve behaviors that support the content of the speech: consistent eye contact, vocal expressiveness, gestures and body movement that are controlled and that enhance content, a conversational vocal style, with pitch and rate changes for emphasis, grammatically correct phrasing, avoidance of verbal clutter (e.g., "you know," "I mean," "like-a," "and-uh"), and elimination of distracting mannerisms. A lectern will be available, but is not required. Please do not use audio-visual aids, such as posters, photographs, PowerPoint presentations, or CD/DVDs.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The speech competency exam can only be taken **ONCE**. If you cancel your registration, you forfeit the \$20 fee. Please give the Communication Department (x5059) **24-hour notice** of any cancellation. You may sign up again, but you will be required to pay another testing fee.