

HUMANITIES HONORS PROGRAM

San Jose State University

First Speech Assignment (HUM 1A)

In this first semester in the Humanities Honors Program, you are asked to give a speech of approximately three minutes in which you will relate aspects of our course readings to contemporary social issues that are significant to your life. You may for instance consider the treatment of women, of people of different social status, or of strangers or foreigners in some of the texts you have read for this course, and compare and contrast the attitudes and actions reflected in those sources to your own experiences in one of these areas. Please consult with your seminar instructor on your choice of topic.

In preparing your speech on the subject you have chosen, please rely on Stephen Hinerman's *Handbook for Public Speaking*, which you will find in the course reader. There you will find a fuller discussion of the speech (p. 1), some misconceptions and advantages of studying public speaking (pp. 2-4), and helpful advice on developing your rhetorical competence, and on the basic steps of speech preparation (pp. 4-9).

Please develop a thesis statement which incorporates the major points you want to make in your speech (Hinerman, p. 5) and design your speech to support your thesis with evidence from the course readings and your experience in order to persuade your audience (your fellow students) to accept your thesis. Be sure to analyze your audience and to use your assessment of your audience in structuring your speech (Hinerman, pp. 4-5).

On the day you give your speech, you will be required to submit a full-content full-sentence outline of your speech; the outline should contain all the major points you plan to make, formulated concisely in full sentences, and in the order in which they will appear in the speech, with appropriate transitions. You will find a brief discussion of outlining in Hinerman, pp. 7-8. Your outline should be approximately two pages (printed and double-spaced).

You will deliver the speech extemporaneously, that is from brief notes based on your outline, rather than reading from a fully formulated text; this will help you ensure that you stay focused on your audience, and that your audience will remain engaged with what you have to say.

In this first semester, you will have the opportunity to familiarize yourself and become comfortable with the process of speech-making without being graded; speeches in later semesters of this program will contribute to your course grades. This speech will serve both as a diagnostic assignment, helping you and your instructor to assess your current competence in this area of oral communication. The assignment will also serve a formative function, helping you to develop your competence further, based on the feedback you will receive both on your outline and on your delivered speech.

In your seminar section, you will receive a schedule which will indicate precisely when you will give your speech. You will also have the opportunity to discuss this assignment further in class and in office hours, and to receive comments on a draft of your outline.