Academic Resources - Testing
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COM210 SPEECH CHALLENGE INFORMATION PACKET

I. Test Information and Procedure

Fees:
The cost of the exam is $345.00. There is a $35 fee each time you reschedule or cancel a test date. Payment is made online during registration.

NOTE: COM210 Speech Challenge exams requires a minimum of 5 students. In the event that there are less than 5 students at a location, we will inform you 5 days before the exam and allow you to re-schedule at no charge. The exam seats a maximum of 10 students.

Registration and Qualification:
Registration is done online at www.regis.edu/testing. As part of the registration, students must submit an essay between 150-200 words explaining their experience, qualification, and background that would qualify them to challenge the course.

Observing a Speech Challenge:
Students find observation helpful to prepare them for their own Speech Challenge exam. To sign up and observe a COM210 Speech Challenge, please register online at https://secure.regis.edu/testing/application.aspx (under the "Select a Test" dropdown menu, please select, *OBSERVER Speech Challenge - COM210*). Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. (Please note that requests must be made 5 days prior to the date of the exam.)

II. Criteria Review:

All COM210 Speech Challenge exams begin promptly at 4pm. A brief review of key criteria will precede the examination.

Examination: Students will present, in "volunteer" order, their timed speeches and be formally evaluated by the examining facilitator, who will collect **outlines** and **self-addressed stamped envelopes**. For specific information about the grading point system, refer to the COM210 Challenge Exam - Evaluation Form on page 4.

Results: Evaluations will be mailed to students within seven days of the examination. Recording process of scores may take four to six weeks from the date of examination.

Retest policy: Student who do not pass the Challenge exam may **NOT** retake it at a later date.

III. Preparing Your Speech

REQUIREMENTS

Speech Type & Topic: Persuasive – Know your purpose!: Do not merely plan to inform your audience; you must *persuade* them to believe or act in a specific, real-world way. Choose a topic that applies to the audience. Do not invent a hypothetical audience. *We are who we are* – give a speech that matters to **us**!

Speech Length: 6 to 8 minutes: **You** must carefully monitor your time while speaking to ensure completion within 6 to 8 minutes. You are welcome to have a timing device to help you with this requirement. The examining facilitator will stop you at ten minutes. (See evaluation form on page 4 for timing penalty.)

Outline (300-500 words plus references; penalty for deficiencies, up to 5 pts.): Begin with *your specific purpose* (state at the top precisely what you intend to convince your audience to believe or do). The outline itself must consist of brief, but complete, sentences, formatted to **match the Sample Outline**, provided on page 4. As shown, include your introduction, the **2-4** main points (including appropriately formatted sub- and/or sub-sub-points), and transitions that, all together, comprise your speech *body*, and your *conclusion*; also include a *References* page that lists (APA or MLA style) at least three research sources.

Visual Aids: You must prepare and use three to five pre-made visual (or other sensory) aids (transparencies, flip charts, posters, objects, handouts, etc.). You may mix or match V/A types or use just one type (e.g. five transparencies), but, to avoid penalty, you must adhere to the requirement of three to five items, total. If using handouts, please bring at least 10 handout copies. PowerPoint or other design applications may be used to create transparencies or handouts, but you may not present your speech using computerized projection. An overhead projector will be supplied; no other equipment (e.g. flipchart easel) is guaranteed, so plan to bring in anything else you may need.

Return Postage: Bring a self-addressed envelope large enough for the return of your outline and evaluation; include **sufficient** postage for the weight (at least two stamps).

EXPECTATIONS

Preparedness: Develop your speech (around your thesis statement) fully and rehearse it adequately; if you are unsure of formal speech construction and delivery principles, use the COM210 textbook (or similar academic resource) as a guide.

Conviction: Your delivery must indicate a strong, sincere belief in your ideas.

Professionalism: Your appearance, demeanor, and materials must *enhance, not injure*, your credibility as a well-informed, worthwhile speaker.

Rapport: Do not read your speech from a manuscript! Use **key-word-style notecards** or your **visual aids** to help keep you on track. This is extemporaneous speaking – **not** a manuscript delivery.

IV. COM210 CHALLENGE EXAM – SAMPLE OUTLINE

Specific Purpose: I want to move my audience to pick up and read from the Bible, at least once this week.
Introduction
I. How many of you have a Bible in your house – or at least access to one?
II. Let me ask you this: how many days did Noah and the animals ride out the Great Flood?
III. No, not 40 days, as I'll explain in a minute; in fact…

Thesis Statement: I'd like you to spend a little time with that Bible so that you will become a better speaker and so that you will get in touch with your personal spirituality.

Body
(Let me begin with a little refresher on the composition of the Bible.)

I. What *is* the Bible?
- A. Different "Bibles" exist.
  1. The very common King James Version was published in 1611.
  2. I use the New International Version given to me by former prof., Dr. Knapp.
  3. Other religions have other "bibles" (e.g. Muslims read the Koran).

- B. The main parts of the Bible are the Old and New Testaments.
  1. The Old Testament was "the Bible" for 13 centuries! (Malachi finished 5th BC)
     - a. It includes the Book of Genesis
     - b. It also includes the "Pentateuch" (the first five books), written by Moses.
  2. The New Testament arose from Jesus Christ's appearance on Earth.
     - a. It includes the Gospels, Christ's story from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
     - b. It also includes Acts, Paul's epistles, and general epistles, incl. Revelation (Jn.).
  3. Let's not forget Gideon's Bibles, including the New Testament & Psalms and Proverbs.

(Now that you know what the Bible is made of, here's why you might want to pick it up and give it a look.)

II. Read it to learn something, like these things I've already learned from reading Genesis.
- A. A major listening mistake shown: Eve and Adam "Listened to the wrong source."
- B. The "forty-day" flood kept the earth covered for 150+days; total voyage = 365 days.
- C. Noah lived to be 950 had 3 kids after 500; Methuselah 969.
- D. There are discrepancies/omissions!
  1. Cain, exiled to Nod??, "lay with his <u>wife</u>??"– what wife?? (no people yet!).
  2. Looking for discrepancies like these keeps your thinking focused and is fun.
- E. Knowing what's really written in the Bible makes you a better speaker/conversationalist.

(So there is a "public speaking" benefit after all… but better speaking is not the only reason.)

III. Read it to awaken your spirituality.
- A. Here's what happened to me.
  1. I went looking for names and began reading Genesis.
  2. I started flipping around and found Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Sun. a.m.)
     - a. The Beatitudes got me remembering my Catholic roots and my mom.
     - b. I then watched "The Song of Bernadette," which moved me deeply; still does.
- B. Here's what might happen to you.
  1. You'll find something that you need to read, and this will lead you somewhere worthwhile.
  2. Regardless of your "religion," you cannot help but get more in touch with it from this.
  3. Best of all, it will be personal: <u>just you and the book</u>, not someone telling you what it means.

Conclusion
I. Now that you've been reminded of just what the Bible is, I hope you'll pick it up **this week** and give it a look.
II. Not only will you gain some handy conversation material, you might even awaken your *personal* spirituality.
III. (Check Time): I'd like to leave you with a few words from the Sermon on the Mount, from Matthew, Book 5.
IV. References (shown in APA style).
V. Understanding/Applying the Bible.

V. COM210 CHALLENGE EXAM – EVALUATION FORM

Speaker: **Date:**

Examiner (check one) : ❑ M. Zizzi ❑ E. Allgood

All items worth a maximum of seven points, unless otherwise specified

Content and Organization

Introduction: captured aud. att'n? estab. topic relevance and spkr credibility? stated purpose/main pts? _____

Topic: focused, appropriate, and relevant? **Fill in thesis**: _____ _____

Body: 2-4 "main points" clarified, developed, and supported? transitions properly emphasized? _____

Visual Aids: clarified important parts of message? not complex? easy to read? added professionalism? _____

Conclusion: reviewed the main points? reinforced the purpose? showed strong finality and closure? _____

Language use: vocab. forceful & adapted to **this** aud.? grammar ok? humor, poetic devices appro.? _____

Persuasiveness: speaker credibility high? / facts/evidence convincing? (3+ refs?) / emotion used well? _____

Delivery

Oral Delivery

Clarity: enunciation sharp (every word clear)? volume adequate? clutter (ums, ahs) minimal? _____

Animation: pitch, rate, and volume lively and varied? no noticeable monotone? generally energetic? _____

Flow of words: smooth? used appropriate pauses? timing confident? no awkward apologies? _____

Physical Delivery

Rapport: lots of direct eye contact established and maintained with aud.? notes unobtrusive? _____

Posture and movement: seemed relaxed? stance not awkward? no "dancing"? took some steps? _____

Message enhancement: gestures, facials and movement added interest, impact and clarity? _____

Overall delivery: aided message? conveyed professionalism? enthusiasm? adequate preparation? _____

Time: _____ if 6 to 8 mins., 2 pts. granted
(outside 6 to 8 mins. - deduct 3 pts., in addition to .5 pts. for each 30 secs. off) _____

Subtotal: _____

Outline & SASE meet requirements? Yes ____ No____ (Deduct up to 5 points for deficiencies) _____

Grade: **Pass** _____ **No Pass** _____ (Minimum of 70 points needed) **Exam Point Total:** _____