

DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Middle School Course Outline

**Course Title:** Exploratory Speech and Drama (Six Weeks)

**Grade Level:** 6

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:**

Exploratory Speech and Drama exposes students to a variety of activities which include public speaking and dramatic interpretation. Students will experience the different types of theatre and learn to apply the proper speaking skills for oral communication. Students will leave this course understanding the importance of effective communication skills, and gain self-confidence. Students will be encouraged to continue their study of speech and drama in the following years of their schooling.

**Student Performance**

**Objectives for this**

**Course:**

Students will

1. identify the necessary speaking skills (volume, eye contact, clarity, rate, body language).
2. will plan and write a speech, incorporating the proper speaking skills in their delivery.
3. will be exposed to several different types of theatre (pantomime, improvisation, and Reader's Theatre).
4. perform a chosen dramatic piece.
5. write a "mini" report of an actor, playwright, or a live dramatic performance. (optional)

## **Exploratory Speech and Drama - continued**

### **Instructional Strategies**

Group and individualized instruction  
Lecture  
Written and oral assignments  
Group and individual projects  
Teacher and student critique

### **Instructional Units**

Weeks	Unit
2	Lectures on proper speaking skills, as well as planning and composing a speech
1	Delivering a speech
2	Lectures on the different types of theatre
1	Performance of a dramatic role

### **Evaluation**

Student progress will be evaluated by:

Completion and quality of assignments  
Attendance  
Class participation  
Tests/quizzes  
Teacher observation  
Student performance  
Teacher evaluation

### **Materials and Resources**

*Utilize sample works of dramatic literature available in current English department texts.*

Speaking By Doing, William Buys, Thomas Sill, Roy Beck, National Textbook Co., Ltd., P.O. Box 700, Caldwell, Idaho.

Improvisation for the Theatre, Viola Spolin, Northwestern University Press, 1735 Benson Ave., Evanston, Illinois, 60201.