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USING PUBLIC SPEAKING ACTIVITIES TO BUILD SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE IN TEACHING LANGUAGE

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Abstract. The article aimed to provide suggestions for using public speaking tasks in English language teaching (ELT) and to highlight some of their many advantages. By public speaking tasks: these include any task where the participant addresses an audience orally. It is focused on two types of these tasks: student presentations and debates. Student presentations may consist of either individual or group speeches based on class lessons or outside projects. Also, it introduces advantages of using these tasks and tips for developing speaking skills.

Keywords: teaching public speaking, advantages of using speaking activities, learning speaking, academic speaking, tasks for public speaking

Effective communication is vital in all aspects of life, and mastering both public speaking and active listening will help to the learners improve overall communication skills. In this thesis are given ways to overcome challenges related to public speaking and active listening, helping to the learner to become a more confident and effective communicator.

Building Confidence in Public Speaking. Confidence is key when it comes to public speaking. It comes from knowing the material, preparing thoroughly, and practicing. It's normal to feel nervous, but it can be managed it by focusing on the message and audience. Below is given tips for building confidence:

- Knowing the material: Research and prepare in advance.
- Practicing: Rehearse the speech multiple times before presenting.
- Focusing on the message: Concentrate on what the speaker want to convey.

Language and Expression in Public Speaking. Choosing the right language and expressions can make a significant difference in how the audience perceives the speech. Being mindful of the speaker's word choice, and ensure that the speaker's language is appropriate for the audience and setting. Some tips for using language effectively:

- Being clear and concise: Avoid jargon and overly complex language.
- Using polite disagreement: When expressing a contrasting opinion, soften the language by saying something like, "I understand where you're coming from, but I don't quite agree."
- Being aware of formality: Adjust your language based on the formality of the setting.

Humor in Public Speaking. Incorporating humor can make the speech more engaging and memorable. However, it's important to strike the right balance and not overdo it. Some tips for using humour:

- Using humor sparingly: Make sure it complements, rather than detracts from, the message.
- Being appropriate: Considering the audience and the context when using humor.
- Testing the jokes: Practicing the humorous lines with friends or family to gauge their reaction.

Developing Active Listening Skills. Active listening is an essential communication skill that involves fully concentrating, understanding, and responding to a speaker. It

helps create a better understanding between the speaker and the listener, fostering meaningful and effective communication. Some tips for active listening:

- Maintaining eye contact: Showing the interest and attentiveness to the speaker.
- Avoiding interrupting: Letting the speaker finish their thoughts before asking questions or offering input.

" Paraphrasing and asking questions: Restate what the speaker said in his own words to ensure understanding and asking clarifying questions if necessary.

Overcoming Fear of Judgment in Public Speaking. Fear of judgment can hinder the public speaking performance. Usually, it is useful to remember that the audience is there to learn from the speaker, and they want you to succeed. Focus on providing value to the listeners rather than worrying about what they think of you.

Some tips for overcoming fear of judgment:

- Focusing on the message: Concentrating on providing value to the audience.
- Embracing imperfection: Accepting that the speaker may make mistakes, and learn from them.

" Visualizing success: Imagining how to deliver a successful speech to boost the confidence.

Using public speaking tasks in the classroom. Both presentation and debate tasks require students to research, demonstrate, and review language and content. The following is a description of each of these phases, followed by a brief discussion of the assessment of public speaking tasks.

Public speaking tasks in practice In order to illustrate the use of student presentations and debates in ELT, describing these tasks within a thematic unit on democracy. This theme lends itself well to multiple perspectives. However, any topic that taps students' interest may be implemented.

In conclusion, mastering public speaking and active listening involves building confidence, using language effectively, incorporating humor, and overcoming the fear of judgment. By following these tips and practicing regularly, the speaker will become a more skilled and confident communicator.

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