

Welcome to the Totally Unbelievable Speakers Club!

TUSC is a program designed to help young people develop their public speaking abilities. Once a cycle (Day 4), the class holds a formal TUSC meeting. All students in the class are involved and each one has an assigned role. The meeting is run completely by the students. While fine tuning their public speaking abilities, the students will also learn to be accountable and to listen to and encourage each other.

In order for the TUSC program to be a successful experience for you, you must be prepared for whatever job is assigned, no matter what aspect of the program you take part in.

Remember to:

1. Always speak in complete sentences.
2. Use your voice effectively.
3. Respect each other's right to speak.
4. Listen appreciatively.
5. Be well prepared; otherwise you let down the entire class as well as yourself.
6. Enjoy your task.

Each student in the class should get to do every role once. Every week, students move down the list to the next task, in rotation. If they miss a week due to illness or are not prepared, the following week they will still move down to the next task. **Every student is expected to be prepared for TUSC.**

Strategies for a Successful TUSC Presentation

Practice at home, standing while your family / friends sit -- it's more audience-like. Record yourself speaking, then listen for pauses or how often you say "like" or "um".

Write out what you plan on saying.

Look at a spot on the back wall of the class -- sometimes you may be too nervous to look into the faces of your classmates, but it's important to look up from your page.

Practice in front of a mirror.

Be the audience you want to speak in front of -- encouraging others, smiling, clapping.

***An Additional Note:** While this is a public speaking course, it may be practical to include videos from time to time. If you would like to record your presentation to show to the class, please make sure you include all the necessary information in your video and be prepared to introduce the video to the class during the TUSC meeting at school.

Oral Presentations

What does it mean to speak well in public?

Your ideas follow a logical format – don't ramble or jump from idea to idea.

You speak clearly – don't mumble!

You speak loudly enough that the person at the back can hear you – but don't yell.

You use expression – not one single tone.

You speak at a medium pace – not too fast or too slow.

You pause to emphasize a point or wait for applause.

You choose appropriate words to explain yourself – not "um", "like", or "uh".

You display enthusiasm for the topic in your facial expression.

Your body language shows confidence – stand tall, don't lean against the wall.

Active Listening

What does it mean to be an active listener?

You demonstrate attentiveness.

Look at the speaker.

Think about and try to understand what the speaker is saying.

Don't fidget or move around.

Encourage the presenter with non-verbal cues such as nodding and smiling.

Recall relevant information from the presentation when asked.

Provides positive feedback through encouragement and applause.

Ask relevant questions if you want clarification.

TUSC Jobs

The following is a list of the roles we will be using.

1. Chairperson

The chairperson must:

- Get a copy of the TUSC agenda from the TUSC binder, and fill in the blanks with the name of each presenter BEFORE the meeting begins.
- Keep the meeting running smoothly.
- Introduce each speaker.
- Thank each speaker and make a comment after each report.
- Tolerate no interruptions or noise.
- File the agenda in the correct section of the TUSC binder.

2. Secretary

The secretary must:

- Get a copy of the Secretary's Report from the TUSC binder and read it over ahead of time.
- Be prepared with a sharp pencil.
- Fill in all of the necessary information at the meeting.
- File the report in the TUSC binder at the end of the meeting.
- Read the report orally at the beginning of the next meeting.

3. Book Talk

The person in charge of the book talk must:

- Prepare an oral book report on a book that you read and enjoyed
- Introduce the book and tell the audience the title and author.
- Tell what genre the book is. (ex. mystery, fantasy, etc.)
- Give a few interesting details.
- Show the book and tell whether or not you recommend it.
- The book talk should be suspenseful and leave the audience hanging; then, they'll rush to read the book

4. Commercial

The person in charge of a commercial must:

- Prepare a 'commercial break' to sell an item to the audience
- Be prepared with EVERYTHING needed.
- Keep the commercial brief and to the point.
- TIPS: Selling something...
 - What is the product's name?
 - What does the product do? Why is it useful?
 - Why will the consumer be especially happy with this product?
 - How is it different from (or better than) others like it?

5. Demonstration

The person in charge of the demonstration must:

- Show or demonstrate how to do something.
- The demonstration should flow from beginning to end and cannot last more than 5 minutes.
- Ensure you include all the steps to help the class be able to try it.
- Here are a few ideas to get your brain working:
 - How to wrap a present
 - How to tape a hockey stick
 - How to make Kool-Aid
 - How to take care of your teeth
- Be creative! Please do not repeat a topic from a previous week.

6. Jokes & Riddles

The comedian must:

- Prepare 5 TASTEFUL jokes and/or riddles to share with the class. (Write them down since 5 will be hard to memorize)
- Read the jokes slowly and clearly. Always pause between the joke and the punch line!
- The person in charge of jokes and riddles must choose jokes in the best of taste. At some time before the meeting be sure to check your jokes out with the teacher.

7. Interesting Artifact

The person in charge of the interesting artifact must:

- Choose an interesting object to share with the class.
- It could be: a special treasure, something unusual, from another country, very old
- When presenting the interesting artifact: describe it, tell why it is important, tell at least one special thing about the artifact

8. Movie or TV Review

The movie or TV reviewer must:

- Choose a movie or TV show to review. Make sure that the movie you choose is appropriate for our school setting.
- Give the title and genre of the movie or show and names any major stars
- Give a short summary of the main conflict or characters. Do not give away the ending!!
- Rate it on a scale of 1-10.

9. Science Experiment

The scientist must:

- Find or make up a SAFE and SIMPLE science experiment.
- Please practice at home before sharing it with the class.
- Bring in all of the supplies needed (unless other arrangements have been made with the teacher).
- Clean up after the experiment.

10. Stickman Game

The Stickman Game person must:

- Think of a movie, book, TV show, actor or actress or athlete. Please do not choose phrases as this tends to take too long.
- Prepare ahead of time a “stickman game” on the board (with lines representing each letter).
- Allow the class to guess letters to solve the clue.

11. “Crocodile Hunter”

The “crocodile hunter” must:

- Choose a favourite animal
- Tell about the natural habitat, diet, and predators of this animal
- Use a picture or visual aid

12. Biographer

The biographer must:

- Choose a famous person to report on.
- Describe the background of that person.
- Explain why they are famous now.

13. Country Spy

The spy must:

- Find out about another country in the world, perhaps one you have traveled to or lived in, or one you would love to visit.
- Show us where it is located
- Find out at least 5 interesting facts about this country.

14. Workout Instructor

The workout instructor must:

- Get us up and moving.
- Create/find a 2 minute workout we can do together or at home.
- Lead us in the workout.

15. Anthropologist

The anthropologist must:

- Investigate a culture and present traditions or other interesting facts about that culture.

16. Today in History

The historian must:

- Tell us about something that happened in history on this day or during this week.
- The event must be described in detail.
- It could be anything from how a cultural event started to a major event in history.

17. Talent Show-Off

The talented presenter must:

- Show us something you love to do and are good at. It could be artistic, musical, athletic, etc.

18. Dramatic Reading/Storytelling

The person in charge of the reading must:

- Choose a short article or part of a book that is of interest
- Practice reading it out loud at home.
- State the name and author of the book before beginning.
- Read this portion of the book to the class.

OR

- Tell us a true story. It can be a story that happened to you or someone you know.

19. Music Lover

The music lover must:

- Choose 2 pieces of music that have made an impact on your life or your family's life. Tell us:
 - Why do you love them?
 - How do you feel when you listen to them?
 - What do they remind you of?

20. Weather Report

The weather reporter must:

- Find the current weather conditions (you may use your Chromebook)
- Give the forecast for the next five days (must be prepared ahead of time)
- Be sure to give information about: temperature (high and low - tell what those mean), wind, and amount of precipitation.

21. Trivia Quizzler

The quizzler must:

- Create a trivia game (5 questions) on a topic of your choice. Your classmates will have the chance to try and answer your questions.
- The goal is not to stump your classmates by making the game too difficult, but rather to spark their interest in your chosen topic.
- If possible, please have additional information ready to expand on each answer.

22. Chef

The chef must:

- Share a favourite recipe with the class.
- Explain the ingredients and how to make it
- Include a sample if possible.
- Give a reason why they like this recipe or what they might do to change it or make it better
- Provide a copy of the recipe for the class.