Communication Beyond Carolina – Course Development Guide

The Communication Beyond Carolina requirement emphasizes the role of oral communication, with particular attention to tailoring communication to different audiences.

Five learning outcomes

- 1. Ascertain the expectations, opportunities, and barriers to oral communication in distinct situations.
- 2. Tailor communications to different kinds of settings, including individual, small group, and public communication.
- 3. Tailor communications to different levels of expertise (inexpert, informed, expert) and/or to varying levels of alignment (resistant, ambivalent, supportive).
- 4. Make informed situation- and audience-sensitive strategic choices in content and delivery.
- 5. Reflect on and use feedback to improve one's practice and ability to move or inform an audience.

Overview of this Guide:

This guide is for instructors designing/adjusting a communication-based course within their discipline using a rhetoric framework, with which they may not be familiar. As such, students will have the opportunity to practice and demonstrate the outcomes authentically within their disciplines, as they are becoming experts within capstone courses, research courses, etc.

Communication Beyond Carolina (CommBeyond) requires the syllabus to dedicate at least 70% of the content or grade to communication activity. But rather than think about developing different "communication assignments," consider how communication might enrich a variety of assignments and class engagements. The more opportunities students have to assess and respond to different rhetorical situations, the more competent communicators they will become.

Your assignments will be tailored to different audiences. If it is possible to have people outside the classroom participate in presentations, this would be a wonderful learning opportunity. However, it is not a requirement. Example assignments are included to spark your imagination about how you could adapt these types of assignments in your course.

As you carefully design assignments, also carefully design rubrics that help you assess the elements of effective communication. Example rubrics are provided at the end of the guide.

The Program for Public Discourse offers workshops and consultations for faculty and students. In addition, the Center for Faculty Excellence can assist with curriculum development and rubric design.

Learning Outcome 1

Ascertain the expectations, opportunities, and barriers to oral communication in distinct situations.

How should I begin to teach students how to assess distinct rhetorical situations?

- 1. Ask students to critique sample speeches and other presentations in your discipline using the situation analysis template below.
- 2. Create oral presentation assignments that are scaffolded using the analysis template. For example, have students submit the situation analysis template in the planning stages of a presentation. Return your feedback on their analysis so they can incorporate your feedback before they give the presentation. Try varying the type of situations across different assignments to help students experiment more widely.

Rhetorical Situation Analysis Template*:

What is the exigence (the urgent demand compelling me to speak)?

Who is my audience (what do they know, believe, value, etc.)?

What is the stasis (the specific point of conflict undergirding my presentation, e.g., a question of fact, definition, value, or policy)?

What are my constraints (barriers to persuading or informing my audience, e.g., time, motivation, age, experience, politics, personal interests, etc.)?

What are my available means of persuasion or education (the tools or rhetorical strategies I can employ to overcome my constraints)?

Learning Outcome 2

Tailor communications to different kinds of settings, including individual, small group, and public communication.

How should I begin to teach students about settings?

- Use sample presentations within your discipline to ask students to compare communication
 in individual settings to public settings. (In individual settings, communication is typically
 more interpersonal and improvisational. By contrast, public settings typically are more
 formal and require speakers to construct messages for complex, diverse compositions of
 audiences. If a speaker assumes everyone shares the same experiences, they can alienate their
 audience.)
- 2. To help students learn how each setting demands different rhetorical choices, create oral presentation assignments that allow students to experiment with different types of settings, perhaps divided by individual, small group, and public. (For example, students negotiating a

^{*(}Add more specific questions to satisfy the demands of the particular assignment and situation)

peace treaty may first communicate in small groups with foreign leaders, before eventually communicating their proposed resolution to the public.

Learning Outcome 3

Tailor communications to different levels of expertise (inexpert, informed, expert), and/or to varying levels of alignment (resistant, ambivalent, supportive).

How should I begin to teach students about expertise?

- 1. Use sample presentations given to different levels of expertise within your discipline and ask students to identify specific rhetorical features that the speaker uses to tailor the communications to that audience (i.e. appropriate terminology, level of depth, formality, and background information.) Ask students if the speaker hit the mark with the audience or if they risked confusing, upsetting, and ultimately alienating their audience.
- 2. Create assignments that allow students to craft messages for specific actual (or hypothetical) audiences other than just the class. Different groups of students could be assigned to different levels of audiences.

How should I begin to teach students about levels of alignment?

- 1. Use sample presentations given to varying levels of alignment within your discipline and ask students to identify specific rhetorical features that the speaker uses. Some sample questions, include:
 - With resistant audiences, how did the speaker first build identification?
 - With supportive audiences, how did the speaker take greater risks and ask for greater levels of commitment?
 - With ambivalent audiences, how did the speaker first overcome ignorance and apathy?
 - With mixed audiences, how did the speaker connect to the audience via broad, unifying themes?
- 2. Create oral presentation assignments that allow students to craft messages for audiences with varying levels of alignment. Different groups of students could be assigned to different levels of audiences.

Learning Outcome 4

Make informed situation- and audience-sensitive strategic choices in content and delivery.

How should I begin to teach students about content choices?

- 1. Use sample presentations within your discipline and ask students to identify specific rhetorical choices the speaker uses around content such as:
 - statistics, analogies, definitions, and testimonies (differing informative strategies)
 - inductive, deductive or narrative reasoning (differing persuasive strategies)
 - differing logical, emotional, and ethical appeals
 - different levels of linguistic formality

- 2. As part of the planning process in a presentation, assign students to construct a full-sentence outline of their presentation, highlighting their rhetorical choices.
- 3. Create oral presentation assignments that require students to make strategic content choices around varying situations and audiences. Assign students to record and self-critique their presentations to assess how they can make better informed choices in the future.

How should I begin to teach students about delivery choices?

- 1. Use sample presentations within your discipline and ask students to identify specific rhetorical delivery features that make the presentation highly formal, semi-formal presentation with some extemporaneous delivery or improvisational.
- 2. As part of the planning process in a presentation, assign students to construct a full-sentence outline of their presentation, highlighting their rhetorical choices.
- 3. Create oral presentation assignments that require students to make choices around formal, semi-formal presentation, and improvisational delivery. Assign students to record and self-critique their presentations to assess how they can make better informed choices in the future.

Learning Outcome 5

Reflect on and use feedback to improve one's practice and ability to move or inform an audience.

How should I begin to teach students to reflect on their presentation and incorporate feedback?

- 1. Have students watch different presentations within your discipline (with a range of quality). Ask students to practice making observations and articulating constructive criticism to the presenter utilizing rubrics you will use with their future work. Have a Q&A about giving and receiving challenging feedback.
- 2. Create assignments that have scaffolding built into the project to give students repeated opportunities to receive feedback from varied audiences (such as peers, community, and instructor) and reflect on the feedback. For example, students may first record, view, and critique their own oral presentation. Next, they may present to peers and receive feedback to revise before presenting to an outside audience. Lastly, students may be asked to reflect on the audience's feedback (such as confusion, boredom, disagreement) and how they would revise their presentation based on the audience feedback.
- 3. Consider different kinds of instructor feedback to help students reach long-term goals. A combination of quantitative and qualitative feedback can be useful, allowing students to focus on specific aspects of their communication while also appreciating the bigger picture of their work. A few sample rubrics are available that can be adapted for specific assignments and disciplines. Consider scaffolding feedback too, such that a few global ideas are addressed first (such as structure, research, and argument) before working on smaller issues (word choice, types of examples, pacing, etc.)

Prepared by a faculty working group and the Office of Undergraduate Curricula, July 2021

Communication Beyond Carolina – Course Development Guide Examples of Oral Presentation Grading Rubrics

Please note: Of course, the grading rubric can be adjusted in numerous ways in light of the specific goals of the instructor and the contours of the assignment. There are, however, recommended best practices. For example, it helps to utilize a combination of quantitative and qualitative feedback. It also helps to strike an optimal middle ground between overly broad categories and reductively narrow objectives. Finally, notice the absence of categories such as "**content**." Such terminology exacerbates the misconception that content comes first and communication comes second. In reality, we see that the quality of the presentation remains indivisible to the rhetorical choices on which it rests. In other words, knowledge is never devoid of communication.

Int	<u>roduction</u>		
1.	Grabs audience's attention with prepared opening statement		
2.	Piques audience investment by addressing problem/urgency		
3.	Clearly states thesis/solution, main points and context		
	<u>vention</u>		
1.	J		
	Provides ample and effective examples		
3.	Utilizes a variety of informational strategies/cogent arguments		
4.	Anticipates and addresses audience questions/concerns		
Ar	rangement		
1.	Logical division of main points		
	Fluid progression of material and rhetorical moves		
3.	Clear topic and transitional statements		
4.	Coherent overarching narrative		
<u>De</u>	<u>livery</u>		
	Extemporaneous, i.e., conversational, yet prepared		
2.	Appropriately suited to audience and situation		
3.	\mathcal{S} \mathcal{S}		
4.	Deliberate tempo/pacing/pauses		
Sty			
	Engaging command of tropes		
	Measured generation of pathos		
	Repertoire of rhetorical devices		
4.	Balance of rhetorical appeals		
	<u>nclusion</u>		
	Restates thesis and summarizes main points		
	Reemphasizes social significance and urgency		
3.	Leaves audience with memorable clincher		
17.		C:4-4:	
ĸe	ep up:	Citations:	
W	ork on:	Time:	
***	,, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	1 mic.	
Co	nsider:	Total:	

Rubric for Formal Oral Communication

Components	3-Sophisticated	2-Competent	1-Not yet Competent
Organization	Presentation is clear, logical, and organized. Listener can follow line of reasoning.	Presentation is generally clear and well organized. A few minor points may be confusing.	Organization is haphazard; listener can follow presentation only with effort. Arguments are not clear.
Style	Level of presentation is appropriate for the audience. Presentation is a planned conversation, paced for audience understanding. It is not a reading of a paper. Speaker is comfortable in front of the group and can be heard by all.	Level of presentation is generally appropriate. Pacing is sometimes too fast or too slow. Presenter seems slightly uncomfortable at times, and audience occasionally has trouble hearing him/her.	Aspects of presentation are too elementary or too sophisticated for audience. Presenter seems uncomfortable and can be heard only if listener is very attentive. Much of the information is read.
Use of Communication Aids	 Communication aids enhance presentation. The font on the visuals is readable. Information is represented and organized to maximize audience comprehension. Details are minimized so that main points stand out. 	Communication aids contribute to the quality of the presentation. • Font size is mostly readable. • Appropriate information is included. • Some material is not supported by visual aids.	Communication aids are poorly prepared or used inappropriately. • Font size is too small to read. • Too much information is included. • Details or some unimportant information is highlighted, and may confuse the audience.
Content Depth of Content	Speaker provides accurate and complete explanations of key concepts and theories, drawing on relevant literature. Applications of theory illuminate issues. Listeners gain insights.	For the most part, explanations of concepts and theories are accurate and complete. Some helpful applications are included.	Explanations of concepts and/or theories are inaccurate or incomplete. Little attempt is made to tie theory to practice. Listeners gain little from the presentation.
Accuracy of Content	Information (names, facts, etc) included in the presentation is consistently accurate.	No significant errors are made. Listeners recognize any errors to be the result of nervousness or oversight.	Enough errors are made to distract a knowledgeable listener. Some information is accurate but the listener must determine what information is reliable.

Components	3-Sophisticated	2-Competent	1-Not yet Competent
Use of Language			
Grammar and Word Choice	Sentences are complete and grammatical. They flow together easily. Words are well chosen; they express the intended meaning precisely.	Sentences are complete and grammatical for the most part. They flow together easily. With some exceptions, words are well chosen and precise.	Listeners can follow presentation, but they are distracted by some grammatical errors and use of slang. Some sentences are halting, incomplete, or vocabulary is limited or inappropriate.
Freedom from Bias (e.g., sexism, racism, heterosexism, agism, etc.,)	Both oral language and body language are free from bias.	Oral language and body language are free from bias with one or two minor exceptions.	Oral language and/or body language includes some identifiable bias. Some listeners will be offended.
Responsiveness to Audience			
Verbal Interaction	Consistently clarifies, restates, and responds to questions. Summarizes when needed.	Generally responsive to audience questions and needs. Misses some opportunities for interaction.	Responds to questions inadequately.
Body Language	Body language reflects comfort interacting with audience	Body language reflects some discomfort interacting with audience.	Body language reveals a reluctance to interact with audience.
Rhetorical Choices	Speaker clearly identifies and addresses points of stasis/impasse with the audience, e.g., lack of information, lack of motivation, disagreement with central claims, etc. Uses rhetorical devices designed to frame and communicate message with this particular audience and situation.	Speaker generally recognizes the points of stasis/impasse with the audience but could go further to directly and effectively engage them.	Speaker does not yet demonstrate awareness concerning points of stasis/impasse with the audience, resulting in sometimes talking past the audience on key issues.

Adapted from Huba, M.E., & Freed, J.E. (2000). Learner-centered assessment on college campuses: Shifting the focus from teaching to learning (pp. 156-157). Allyn & Bacon: Needham Heights, MA Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence, Carnegie Mellon University

Chemistry and Biochemistry Oral Presentation Rubric

Scoring Rubric for Oral Scientific Presentations

Level of Achievement	Excellent 16-20 points	Good 11-15 points	Marginal 6-10 points	Inadequate 0-5 points
Organization	 Well thought out with logical progression Use of proper language Significance clearly stated Content level appropriate for audience Abstract and bibliography are well constructed 	 Talk easy to follow Use of proper language Significance clearly stated Content level not always appropriate Abstract and/or bibliography have some errors 	 Talk somewhat disorganized Shows some effort to use proper language Significance somewhat unclear Includes some irrelevant content and inappropriate content level Abstract and bibliography are not well constructed 	 Talk difficult to follow Unclear language Does not understand significance of work Inadequate content Abstract and bibliography lack proper content and construction
Understanding of Scientific Content	 Identifies the research question/research field Has advanced understanding of the experimental approach and significance Critically evaluates results, methodology and conclusions Scientifically rigorous and well researched 	 Identifies the research question/research field Has basic understanding of the experimental approach and significance Limited evaluation of results, methodology and conclusions Well researched 	 Research question/research field somewhat unclear Description of experimental approach somewhat confusing Results and conclusions stated but not critically evaluated Does not integrate outside readings 	 Does not understand the research Does not understand the experimental approach Does not understand conclusions or recognize implications for future work

Style/Delivery	 Uses time wisely Speaks with good pacing and enthusiasm Makes eye contact and does not read information Uses engaging tone and appropriate vocabulary 	 Speaks well, but often repeats comments Exhibits few disfluencies ("ahs", "uhms", etc.) Makes eye contact Uses good vocabulary and tone 	 Presentation poorly timed Some hesitation and uncertainty are apparent Exhibits many disfluencies Makes little eye contact and looks at notes Monotone and nonengaging delivery 	 Presentation poorly timed Makes no eye contact and reads from notes Hesitation and uncertainty are very apparent Speaks too quietly or quickly for audience to hear and understand
Use of Visual Aids	 Tables/graphs summarize data and/or conclusions Size and labels are clear Very little text Figures and images explained and described well Presentation has no misspellings or grammatical errors Makes limited and effective use of laser pointer AV set up properly 	 Text appropriately sized Very little text Most figures and images explained and described well Presentation has an occasional misspelling or grammatical error Uses laser pointer effectively AV set up properly 	 Labels and legends somewhat unclear Text size somewhat small Too much detail on slides Blocks of text on slides Figures are explained Presentation has multiple misspellings and/or grammatical errors Uses laser pointer unnecessarily AV mishaps resolved 	 Labeling is not clear Size is too small to see No logical placement of information Mostly text and very few images Figures are not explained Presentation has numerous misspellings and/or grammatical errors Use of laser pointer is distracting AV mishaps unresolved
Ability to Answer Questions	 Anticipates audience questions Understands audience questions Can integrate knowledge to answer questions Thoroughly responds to questions 	 Does not anticipate audience questions Understands audience questions Can integrate knowledge to answer questions Thoroughly responds to most questions 	 Does not anticipate audience questions Makes an effort to address question Can address some questions Often responds poorly to questions 	Either makes no effort to respond to questions or does so poorly

Foreign Language Oral Presentation Rubric	Points (7.5 points)
<u>Content</u> : (including everything required; well researched; not	1.5 1 0.5 0
obviously long or short)	
Efforts of Applying Prior Knowledge (using phrases/patterns	1.5 1 0.5 0
and cultural concepts learned this semester)	
Comprehensibility: (pronunciation; tones; understandable	1.5 1 0.5 0
grammar; appropriate vocabulary)	
<u>Clarity & Fluency</u> : (no English explanation or reading	1.5 1 0.5 0
notes/slides; succinct; transitions; relatively formal language)	
Manner: (cultural and linguistically appropriate, including	1.5 1 0.5 0
beginning and ending of the presentation; non-verbal	
communication; responding to relevant audience cues)	

ORAL COMMUNICATION VALUE RUBRIC

for more information, please contact value@aacu.org



The VALUE rubrics were developed by teams of faculty experts representing colleges and universities across the United States through a process that examined many existing campus rubrics and related documents for each learning outcome and incorporated additional feedback from faculty. The rubrics articulate fundamental criteria for each learning outcome, with performance descriptors demonstrating progressively more sophisticated levels of attainment. The rubrics are intended for institutional-level use in evaluating and discussing student learning, not for grading. The core expectations articulated in all 15 of the VALUE rubrics can and should be translated into the language of individual campuses, disciplines, and even courses. The utility of the VALUE rubrics is to position learning at all undergraduate levels within a basic framework of expectations such that evidence of learning can by shared nationally through a common dialog and understanding of student success.

The type of oral communication most likely to be included in a collection of student work is an oral presentation and therefore is the focus for the application of this rubric.

Definition

Oral communication is a prepared, purposeful presentation designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the listeners' attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors.

Framing Language

Oral communication takes many forms. This rubric is specifically designed to evaluate oral presentations of a single speaker at a time and is best applied to live or video-recorded presentations. For panel presentations or group presentations, it is recommended that each speaker be evaluated separately. This rubric best applies to presentations of sufficient length such that a central message is conveyed, supported by one or more forms of supporting materials and includes a purposeful organization. An oral answer to a single question not designed to be structured into a presentation does not readily apply to this rubric.

Glossary

The definitions that follow were developed to clarify terms and concepts used in this rubric only.

- Central message: The main point/thesis/"bottom line"/"take-away" of a presentation. A clear central message is easy to identify; a compelling central message is also vivid and memorable.
- Delivery techniques: Posture, gestures, eye contact, and use of the voice. Delivery techniques enhance the effectiveness of the presentation when the speaker stands and moves with authority, looks more often at the audience than at his/her speaking materials/notes, uses the voice expressively, and uses few vocal fillers ("um," "uh," "like," "you know," etc.).
- Language: Vocabulary, terminology, and sentence structure. Language that supports the effectiveness of a presentation is appropriate to the topic and audience, grammatical, clear, and free from bias. Language that enhances the effectiveness of a presentation is also yivid, imaginative, and expressive.
- Organization: The grouping and sequencing of ideas and supporting material in a presentation. An organizational pattern that supports the effectiveness of a presentation typically includes an introduction, one or more identifiable sections in the body of the speech, and a conclusion. An organizational pattern that enhances the effectiveness of the presentation reflects a purposeful choice among possible alternatives, such as a chronological pattern, a problem-solution pattern, an analysis-of-parts pattern, etc., that makes the content of the presentation easier to follow and more likely to accomplish its purpose.
- Supporting material: Explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities, and other kinds of information or analysis that supports the principal ideas of the presentation. Supporting material is generally credible when it is also vivid and varied across the types listed above (e.g., a mix of examples, statistics, and references to authorities). Supporting material may also serve the purpose of establishing the speakers credibility. For example, in presenting a creative work such as a dramatic reading of Shakespeare, supporting evidence may not advance the ideas of Shakespeare, but rather serve to establish the speaker as a credible Shakespearean actor.

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Definition

Oral communication is a prepared, purposeful presentation designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the listeners' attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors.

Evaluators are encouraged to assign a zero to any work sample or collection of work that does not meet benchmark (cell one) level performance.

	Capstone 4	3 Miles	stones 2	Benchmark 1
Organization	Organizational pattern (specific introduction and conclusion, sequenced material within the body, and transitions) is clearly and consistently observable and is skillful and makes the content of the presentation cohesive.	Organizational pattern (specific introduction and conclusion, sequenced material within the body, and transitions) is clearly and consistently observable within the presentation.	Organizational pattern (specific introduction and conclusion, sequenced material within the body, and transitions) is intermittently observable within the presentation.	Organizational pattern (specific introduction and conclusion, sequenced material within the body, and transitions) is not observable within the presentation.
Language	Language choices are imaginative, memorable, and compelling, and enhance the effectiveness of the presentation. Language in presentation is appropriate to audience.	Language choices are thoughtful and generally support the effectiveness of the presentation. Language in presentation is appropriate to audience.	Language choices are mundane and commonplace and partially support the effectiveness of the presentation. Language in presentation is appropriate to audience.	Language choices are unclear and minimally support the effectiveness of the presentation. Language in presentation is not appropriate to audience.
Delivery	Delivery techniques (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) make the presentation compelling, and speaker appears polished and confident.	Delivery techniques (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) make the presentation interesting, and speaker appears comfortable.	Delivery techniques (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) make the presentation understandable, and speaker appears tentative.	Delivery techniques (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) detract from the understandability of the presentation, and speaker appears uncomfortable.
Supporting Material	A variety of types of supporting materials (explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities) make appropriate reference to information or analysis that significantly supports the presentation or establishes the presenter's credibility/ authority on the topic.	examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies,	Supporting materials (explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities) make appropriate reference to information or analysis that partially supports the presentation or establishes the presenter's credibility/authority on the topic.	Insufficient supporting materials (explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities) make reference to information or analysis that minimally supports the presentation or establishes the presenter's credibility/ authority on the topic.
Central Message	Central message is compelling (precisely stated, appropriately repeated, memorable, and strongly supported.)	Central message is clear and consistent with the supporting material.	Central message is basically understandable but is not often repeated and is not memorable.	Central message can be deduced, but is not explicitly stated in the presentation.