

Courage Speech Project – Honors & Regular English 9

TASK: Your task is to present a _____ minute speech about courage to the class. Through the completion of this task, you will:

- Propose a definition or definitions of the concept of courage.
- Persuasively support that definition based on what you learned about courage in your Courage Novel, specifically by using quotes from your book.
- Deliver a speech with the proper structure, tone, voice, persuasive techniques, use of note cards, and body control.
- Demonstrate mastery of planning, drafting, practicing, and revising a speech.

TOPICS: The topic is obviously “courage,” but you have a few different ways to approach this. You can use your main character(s) to persuade the audience that *your definition of courage is true* or you can persuade the audience that *your main character is or is not courageous based on your definition of courage*. Below are the possibilities that occurred to me:

- Define courage and then simply support it with examples from your novel/book.
- Give two or more definitions (or types) of courage and then support each type of courage with examples from your novel/book.
- Instead of focusing on your definitions of courage, make the focus of your speech the character of the novel/book. Then, work through their actions, personality, etc. to prove that the character(s) is or isn't courageous.

Planning and Organization: Once you decide which approach you want to take to the topic – define courage and support it or focus on your character on prove/disprove he/she is courageous – you'll need to choose a method of organization. You will be provided with graphic organizers for this purpose; we'll also review the various choices you have in class.

Textual Support: You will need three to six quotations from your text to help support your argument, complete with page numbers. As a prewriting assignment, you will be asked to find ten quotes that will do the job, so don't worry about having enough textual proof!

Persuasive Techniques: The techniques you will be asked to master in this speech will be as listed below:

- Use of textual support – with strong introductory phrasing and explanations of the text
- Use of common persuasive techniques – logos, ethos, pathos (We'll review these in class.)
- Use of strong speech structure: Introduction, Body, Conclusion
- Use of strong speech techniques such as body control, mastery of material (rehearsal), flow, eye contact, etc.