

Original Oratory

Lesson Plan by Daryl R. Hall

Objective: The students will determine an idea suitable as a topic for an original oratory.

Materials: Wipe board, colored markers, computer with audio system.

Procedure:

- Review pages 330-337 of the *Glencoe Speech* book on choosing and developing a subject for a speech.
- Have each student come to the board to write a one-sentence belief that they have. (A variety of colored markers helps.) Have the student state it emphatically and have the rest of the class write all of them down. Discuss as needed. Teacher models.
- Collect the list of class beliefs. Grade for completion.
- Go to the National Public Radio website for the “This I Believe” essays:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4538138>

- Explain that the radio show started in the 1950’s and was recently revised, that it is a collection of short essays from famous people and average citizens, explaining their basic beliefs,
- Play the audio essay “Be Cool to the Pizza Delivery Dude” by Sarah Adams.

<http://thisibelieve.org/essay/23/>

- Discuss with the class.
- Play the audio essay “In Giving I Connect with Others” by Isabel Allende.

<http://thisibelieve.org/essay/11/>

- Discuss with the class.
- Compare and contrast the two essays, their two approaches to a serious topic: one humorous, one serious.
- Have the students write a short essay on a belief they have for homework.
- Have the students read their essays out loud to the class.
- Discuss each essay with the class.

Assessment: Grade as an essay: idea development, language, supporting details, grammar, etc.