

# Speech & Critical Thinking

## 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### General Information

### 2016-2017

#### *Class Rules*

- 1.) Be kind to everyone
- 2.) Be respectful to everyone
- 3.) No talking when the teacher is talking
- 4.) No talking or moving during presentations
- 5.) "Please" and "Thank You"
- 6.) Follow the teacher's instructions
- 7.) Everyone has to try

#### *Syllabus and Grading Weight Changes*

The syllabus may change depending upon the needs of the class and observations as the semester progresses. Additionally, the grading scale may be adjusted based upon the students' willingness to try and class participation.

#### *Conduct*

I will regularly report to parents about how the students are following the class rules.

#### *What is a key word hunt?*

At the 1-2<sup>nd</sup> grade level, a key word hunt is when the instructor and the students find the **three (3) or less most** important words in each sentence of the chosen source text. These words help the students remember the text, but not necessarily recite it word-for-word. After we find the key words, the students, after modeling by the teacher, perform a speech based strictly off the key words.

At the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade level, after the teacher reads the source text, students are expected to independently locate the key words in each sentence, transcribe them on paper, and then make them into complete sentences for the speech presentation.

The purpose of the exercise is to help students begin to think critically about what they are reading and be able to recite information in their words. This exercise also teaches students the "look down, look up method" to giving a presentation. In this method, though the students have the information on paper, they look down at the paper to remember what is on it, but they must look at the audience when they are speaking. They cannot look at the paper and speak at the same time.

The source texts we will be using include The Book of Proverbs, Aesop Fables, and other reference information that aligns with the classical school classes being taught on Monday and Thursday.

***Optional Field Trips***

A field trip to “Capitol Day” in Austin is being planned for March 9, 2017. Additionally, I will send home information about various outings in which your family may be interested in to enhance the students’ learning experience.

***Class Website***

You may find the syllabus and the weekly assignments on-line under the “Classical School” tab at [NicoleHuffmanHollins.com](http://NicoleHuffmanHollins.com).

***Contact Information***

Please send all correspondence through Teacher Ease.