**Spoken Language 11** **Course Outline**

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This senior language arts course utilizes the new BC curriculum and is organized around the following Big Ideas:

* **The exploration of text and story deepens our understanding of diverse, complex ideas about identity, others, and the world.**
* **People understand text differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives.**
* **Texts are socially, culturally, geographically, and historically constructed**
* **Language shapes ideas and influences others.**
* **Voice is powerful and evocative.**

We will be working in a variety of formats to explore our understanding of these core concepts, and employing critical thinking skills to contextualize and situate ourselves in relation to both the ideas and each other.

We will, on a daily basis, seek to make connections using text to text, text to self, and text to world pathways. We will immerse ourselves in debates and questions, searching for *evidence from the texts* to support our opinions. You will express your ideas both verbally and in written form.

We will move from small, low risk activities and finalise the year with an oral exam in front of an audience.

**Proposed units:**

**Introduction:** Interpersonal skill of communication: the theory and the practice.

**Exploring the oral Tradition:** Ballads, the Bard; Living Languages exhibit at the Royal BC museum; Indigenous storytelling and structure.

**From Jazz to Beats to Hip Hop:** Ken Burns *Jazz*; *SLAM*, Spoken word (guest speaker and field trip); Jabberwocky performance; *Howl* (view and listen) and look alike.

**Public Speaking and Debate:** Persuasive techniques; Ted talks; guest speakers.

**Readers Theatre, Theatre of the Oppressed, Comedy:** Guest speakers and Drama activities.

**Shakespeare:** Insults, subtext, and field trip to Craigdarroch castle.

**Podcast Inquiry Unit:** Connect these to the Big Ideas for our final Inquiry unit and create your own podcast.

**Final Exam**: Student TED Talks in the Theatre.

To succeed in this course, it is imperative that you attend. Consistent absences will not only dramatically affect your mark, but your ability to be and feel prepared to enter grade 12.

I expect a classroom culture of respect and inclusion. You must take ownership over your experience in this course. The more you put into this, the more you will get out of it.

**PHONE POLICY:** Do not have your phone out in class unless you want it taken to the office. You will be given a daily “text break” in which you can check your phone. Consistent issues with this will lead to a class policy of using the Phone Hotel.

**Not everyone is ready to speak up and out loud and THAT IS PERFECTLY FINE. However, you must come to this class with an open mind and a respectful heart. Be willing to take chances and support your peers and friends as they push themselves out of their comfort zones.**

This course will benefit you on your school journey, in your personal life, and in your professional career:

“Glance through any job portal and you will find that "excellent written and oral communication skills" are one of the vital attributes that all employers look for in their prospective employees. Oral communication is the art of using speech to convey information, thoughts and feelings to others and it is the key to improve interpersonal and professional relationships. Human beings are blessed with the faculty of speech and that is an incredible gift, to say the least. As the 21st century has been adjudged to be an era of communication…The way we convey our thoughts plays a major role in building relationships. If you're impolite, terse and reckless in speaking, your words, no matter how meaningful, won't achieve their purpose.” (<https://workspirited.com/oral-communication-skills-in-workplace>)

Let’s begin!