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Article

Speaking Skills: A Panacea for College Students in the Classroom and in the Workplace

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Abstract: For college students, speaking skills are a priceless commodity that can solve a wide range of social, professional, and academic problems. Proficiency in oral communication allows students to express themselves coherently and convincingly in academic and workplace contexts, which improves their involvement in group projects, presentations, and class debates. This paper determines to collect literature to prove that speaking skills can be a panacea for college students in the classroom and the workplace. Having speaking skills is, in fact, a college student's greatest asset, providing a plethora of advantages that go beyond scholastic achievement to encompass personal and professional growth. These abilities should be prioritized in colleges and institutions, with thorough curricula incorporating technological integration, practice opportunities, and public speaking courses. More investigation is required to look into creative approaches to improving speaking abilities and helping students get past obstacles. In essence, emerging strong speaking skills prepare college students with a multipurpose device that improves various aspects of their lives, making it a true panacea.

Keywords: college students; education; higher education; speaking skills; speech

Introduction

Speaking effectively is considered a panacea for college students because of its extensive advantages in the classroom and in the workplace. In almost every academic subject, effective communication is essential for students to be able to express their thoughts in a clear and convincing manner. Strong speaking abilities, essential to many colleges' curricula, improve involvement in class debates and presentations, improving academic success (Hargie, 2011). Students who are proficient in these areas will be able to interact with teachers and peers more effectively, creating a collaborative and dynamic learning environment.

Effective communication is another critical component of professional development. Verbal communication skills are routinely ranked as one of the top traits employers look for in job prospects, according to a 2018 National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) poll. Students who acquire these abilities in college will have an advantage over others when it comes to job interviews, networking opportunities, and professional relationships. According to Carmine Gallo's (2014) book "Talk Like TED," having the capacity to communicate ideas succinctly and effectively can greatly improve one's chances of landing a good job.

Speaking abilities are also necessary for teamwork and leadership. According to Judith Baxter's (2010) research, persuasive speakers who can effectively express their vision and inspire others are frequently identified as good leaders. Developing one's speaking skills can help college students participate in group projects and student groups by enabling them to lead and contribute more effectively. In addition to enhancing group dynamics, this skill set gets students ready for leadership roles in their future employment.

Furthermore, the ability to speak in front of an audience develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students must arrange their ideas, examine data, and make logical arguments when preparing and giving presentations, according to a 2013 study by Allen and Seaman. Students

become better capable of handling challenging problems both within and outside of the classroom as a result of these cognitive processes, which also improve general intellectual growth. Therefore, developing speaking abilities involves more than just communication; it also entails encouraging a more deliberate and analytical approach to a variety of problems.

The capacity to identify and work with the individual sounds, or phonemes, in spoken words is known as phonemic awareness. Effective word decoding, or the act of converting written words into their spoken equivalents, requires this ability. Phonemic awareness is important when it comes to speaking abilities, especially for students where clear communication and technical terms are crucial (Genelza, 2022).

Effective speaking has advantages for one's own growth as well. Effective communication raises self-esteem and confidence, claims Lucas (2014). Clear and aggressive communicators are more likely to be involved in extracurricular activities, social gatherings, and classroom discussions as college students. A more rewarding and stimulating college experience that fosters personal development and a sense of success may result from this greater participation.

Ultimately, speaking abilities are essential for cross-cultural connection in a world growing more interconnected by the day. As Beamer and Varner (2013) point out, in today's globalized culture, having the capacity to communicate with people from different backgrounds is essential. Strong speaking abilities make college students more suitable for study abroad opportunities, overseas internships, and international partnerships. Their educational experience is improved by this global viewpoint, which also gets students ready for the dynamic and diversified nature of the modern workforce. Thus, this paper determines to collect literature to prove that speaking skills can be a panacea for college students in the classroom and the workplace.

Speaking Skills: A Needed Skill

Proficiency in speaking is a major asset to academic achievement. As per Mortiboys (2011), students who possess eloquence and self-assurance in their speaking can contribute positively to class discussions, make clear presentations of their views, and participate in debates. This can result in improved marks and a more profound comprehension of the subject matter. Effective speaking abilities help students convey their information and thoughts more effectively, which is important in academic contexts. (Mortiboys, 2011). This capacity to effectively and convincingly communicate information aids in improved understanding and retention of the material.

Employers place a great emphasis on communication skills in today's competitive employment market, with speaking abilities being especially important. 80% of businesses seek graduates with strong verbal communication abilities, per a National Association of Colleges and businesses (NACE) poll (NACE, 2020). According to Robles (2012), "soft skills like communication are crucial for career success." Clarity in thought and idea expression can set a candidate apart from the competition and increase their appeal to employers. Thus, developing speaking abilities can have a direct impact on career advancement and job possibilities.

Possessing strong speaking abilities is essential for leadership. In order to inspire, encourage, and mentor others, leaders must communicate in a way that is compelling and unambiguous. According to Kouzes and Posner (2017), "the best leaders are excellent communicators" (p. Improving one's speaking abilities is crucial for college students who want to hold leadership positions in student organizations or in their future professions. Strong communicators are capable of resolving disputes, fostering teamwork, and successfully communicating their vision—all essential leadership traits.

Speaking well also improves relationships and social interactions. Effective interpersonal communication is essential for establishing and preserving relationships, claim Spitzberg and Cupach (2011). This entails being able to form and maintain friendships, network with classmates, and work together on group assignments for college students. Stronger, more meaningful connections are the result of effective communication, and these ties are priceless throughout and after college. At various stages of the learning process, teachers and students should both positively

benefit from them in order to foster meaningful and practical language acquisition and growth (Genelza, 2022).

Improved speaking abilities can greatly increase a student's self-assurance and sense of worth. In Lucas's words (2014), "Students who develop their speaking abilities often experience increased self-confidence." Speaking with confidence can help students feel less nervous in both social and academic situations, enabling them to express themselves more openly and take on new tasks. This self-assurance may have a beneficial knock-on impact that improves wellbeing and general personal growth.

Speaking fluently is a key component of lifelong learning and ongoing personal development. Speaking is a communication skill necessary for adjusting to the quickly changing world, according to the Institute for the Future (2011). People may learn from others, exchange knowledge, and keep informed when they are proficient communicators. For college students, this involves being resilient and adaptive throughout their lives in addition to achieving success in their academic and professional pursuits.

Findings and Discussion

Speaking in particular, effective communication is frequently seen as an essential college student competency. Speaking well not only improves academic achievement but also gives pupils the capabilities they need for the workplace, claims Brownell (2012). Speaking abilities include many different aspects, such as the capacity to engage and persuade an audience as well as the articulation, fluency, and clarity of speech.

Speaking abilities and academic success are positively correlated, according to several research. For example, Astin's (1993) study discovered that students with higher GPAs were typically those who actively participated in class debates and presentations. This shows that speaking abilities promote critical thinking, active learning, and a deeper comprehension of the material.

Effective communication skills are widely prized in the workplace. A 2019 National Association of Colleges and Employers poll found that employers valued verbal communication abilities over all other qualifications for recent graduates. This emphasizes how important it is for universities to give speaking instruction top priority in order to increase students' employability and professional preparedness (Robles, 2012).

Speaking fluently is another important aspect of personal growth. As students learn to articulate their thoughts clearly and effectively, effective communication increases their sense of self-worth and confidence. According to research by Daly and Stafford (1984), students who engaged in public speaking exercises showed higher levels of confidence in themselves.

The COVID-19 epidemic presented previously unheard-of difficulties for education, especially in regard to how students interact and communicate in learning environments. The goal of this research is to comprehend the speech anxiety that first-year engineering students in this era experience. Since effective communication is essential to both engineering education and career success, this topic needs to be thoroughly investigated. The pandemic's forced transition to online learning environments has changed how students engage in traditional classroom settings. The lack of face-to-face interaction and the strain of digital communication platforms have caused many students to feel more nervous and anxious when speaking in virtual environments. Supporting students' academic and personal development requires an understanding of these interactions. It is critical to investigate speech anxiety in first-year engineering students during the pandemic in order to establish supportive learning settings. Teachers can assist students in reducing anxiety, helping them to build critical communication skills, and preparing them for successful careers in engineering by addressing the special problems that come with online learning. In the end, our research will help students' academic and career paths by laying the groundwork for useful interventions (Genelza, 2021).

Improved interpersonal relationships are facilitated by proficient speaking abilities. According to Tannen (1990), having good communication is essential to establishing and preserving wholesome

relationships. Speaking well allows students to work with peers more efficiently in a college context, which improves group dynamics and fosters a more encouraging learning atmosphere.

In order to promote cultural competence, speaking abilities are also essential. College students frequently engage with peers from a variety of cultural backgrounds in today's worldwide society. Bennett (1993) argues that mutual respect and understanding are fostered through good cross-cultural communication. The importance of cultural competency is rising in both professional and academic contexts.

Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are intimately related to effective speaking. Higher-order thinking abilities may be needed for the process of articulating thoughts and ideas, according to a study by Facione (1990). Proficiency in critical thinking and problem-solving is crucial for both professional and academic advancement.

The development and application of speaking abilities have changed dramatically with the arrival of technology. Digital platforms and resources, according to Prensky (2001), give new chances for improving public speaking abilities through online forums, multimedia storytelling, and virtual presentations. With the help of these tools, students can practice and improve their communication abilities in a variety of ways.

Even though speaking abilities are widely acknowledged to be important, many college students struggle to acquire these skills. Common challenges include a fear of public speaking, difficulties with language, and a lack of practice chances (McCroskey, 1977). Targeted treatments, such as workshops, public speaking classes, and encouraging learning environments, are needed to address these issues.

Speaking abilities are, in fact, a college student's greatest asset, providing a plethora of advantages that go beyond scholastic achievement to encompass personal and professional growth. These abilities should be prioritized in colleges and institutions, with thorough curricula incorporating technological integration, practice opportunities, and public speaking courses. More investigation is required to look into creative approaches to improving speaking abilities and helping students get past obstacles.

Concluding Remarks

For college students, speaking skills are a priceless commodity that can solve a wide range of social, professional, and academic problems. Proficiency in oral communication allows students to express themselves coherently and convincingly in academic contexts, which improves their involvement in group projects, presentations, and class debates. This improves their academic achievement and helps them have a deeper comprehension of the material. Students can enhance their educational experience by effectively communicating their knowledge, posing perceptive questions, and having meaningful conversations with instructors and peers.

Socially, college students who speak well are better able to establish and nurture relationships, create networks, and participate in a variety of societies. Students who are confident in their ability to communicate their thoughts and feelings are more equipped to handle the challenges of social interactions, from forming new friendships to settling disputes. Students who are able to communicate effectively with others from other origins and cultures are able to promote tolerance and understanding in the community. This social competency is essential for fostering a cooperative and encouraging campus climate that improves the general happiness and well-being of students.

Speaking abilities are essential in the workplace for college students as they get ready for their future employment. Communication skills are among the most important abilities that employers look for in candidates. Students that possess strong public speaking abilities have an advantage in the job market since they perform better in networking events, internships, and job interviews. Furthermore, because they help professionals lead teams, make presentations, and negotiate effectively, these abilities are critical for career advancement. Thus, developing speaking skills gives students the advantage they need to be successful in their chosen industries.

Additionally, speaking skills have advantages in the classroom, on the social scene, and in the workplace, but they also foster personal development and confidence. The capacity for aggressive

and clear communication boosts one's confidence and lowers fear in a variety of contexts. Speaking confidently, students are more inclined to assume leadership roles, engage in extracurricular activities, and stand up for others and themselves. The process of personal development plays a crucial role in molding individuals into well-rounded persons who may positively impact society.

Finally, since speaking abilities cover a wide range of topics, they are a cure-all for college students. They support career opportunities, improve social relations, raise academic achievement, and promote personal development. Developing these abilities is an essential part of a college education since it can have major long-term rewards. Students who prioritize and practice speaking will be better equipped to handle the challenges of college life and build a solid foundation for success in the future.

Implications

For college students, mastering public speaking can be a lifesaver that greatly improves both their academic and professional chances. First and foremost, successful communication is essential for academic achievement. Clear and confident speaking can make a big difference in group projects, presentations, and conversations in which students often participate. Students may show that they grasp the material, interact with others, and get helpful criticism that helps them improve their knowledge by presenting their thoughts clearly and persuasively.

Second, having strong public speaking abilities can help students a lot in internships and job interviews. Candidates that can boldly and clearly articulate their opinions are highly valued by employers. Proficiency in oral communication can help students stand out from the competition and demonstrate their professionalism and preparedness for the workplace. Engaging in organizations like debate clubs or Toastmasters, along with practicing public speaking, can help students gain confidence and enhance their capacity to communicate clearly under pressure.

Speaking abilities are important for personal growth in addition to academic and professional gains. More positive relationships with mentors, instructors, and classmates are fostered via effective communication. Pupils who have good communication skills are better able to work together on projects, settle disputes, and form supportive networks. These social skills are critical for one's personal development and can result in a more satisfying time in college.

Education has the power to create a safer, brighter, and more wealthy society by changing people's perspectives and perceptions to the conventional approach, which in turn promotes sustainability. Prior to taking any action, we must recognize and comprehend the role and goal of education. This will therefore be essential for human advancement toward becoming prosperous and law-abiding citizens (Genelza, 2022).

Additionally, effective speaking abilities support the growth of leadership. Students at college are frequently given the chance to assume leadership positions in clubs, associations, and scholarly groups. Effective communicators may encourage and inspire their team members, effectively communicate their vision, and foster team success. Students can become more successful leaders and have a beneficial influence on their communities by developing their speaking skills.

Last but not least, a student's general sense of self-worth and mental health can be significantly impacted by the confidence they get from practicing speaking techniques. Confidence in other facets of life can be enhanced for students who conquer their fear of public speaking and gain clarity in their cognitive processes. This enhanced confidence can result in better attendance, more involvement in extracurricular activities, and a more proactive approach to both academic and personal issues. In essence, emerging strong speaking skills prepare college students with a multipurpose device that improves various aspects of their lives, making it a true panacea.

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