SPEAKING OF CREATIVE SOLUTIONS: FACILITATING ACCESS TO PUBLIC SPEAKING AND VOCAL PARTICIPATION

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INTRODUCTION

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AGENDA

- Situations where public speaking accommodations may be needed
- Challenges to public speaking
- Reliance on public, formal speaking interaction in most professions
- Creative solutions for accommodation and access
- Technological assistance
LEARNING OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

• Participants will take away ideas for creative public speaking accommodations and ways to prepare students for public speaking.
• Participants will be able to identify different disability situations where these challenges exist.
• Participants will be prepared to work with faculty on creative ideas, such as the use of technology, that could assist with public speaking, speeches, presentation, and meetings.

SITUATIONS WHERE PUBLIC SPEAKING ACCOMMODATIONS MAY BE NEEDED

• Speech/presentations
• Group presentations
• Class participation
  • Calling on students
  • Socratic method
  • Leading class discussions

CHALLENGES TO PUBLIC SPEAKING

• Mutism, Non-verbal
• Communication impairments
  • Autism Spectrum
• Speech impairments
  • Stuttering
• Anxiety
• Processing information
• Chronic Health conditions
RELIANCE ON PUBLIC, FORMAL SPEAKING INTERACTION IN MOST PROFESSIONS

- Professional development
- Oral Communications vs. Modern Communications
  - Where’s the field moving?
  - Heavier reliance on digital communication
- Speeches based on tech
  - Videotaped/reviewed speech
  - Character: naming via video conferencing tools

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR ACCOMMODATION AND ACCESS

- Creative side of group presentations
- Choosing dates/topics for participation – offers student some control related to their comfort levels
- Student can indicate to prof on days they’re uncomfortable being called on
- Student agrees on number of times they’ll participate
- Videos instead of live speeches
- Student writes speech, someone else delivers
  - No loss of points for minor use of “fillers” that help them get to the next sound in the sentence

TECH ASSISTANCE

- Note-taking software
  - Sonocent/Glean
- Presentation apps, software
  - Present Pal
- Audio-playback devices
  - Speech Guy
- Tablets and smartphones
IDENTIFYING LIKELY PROBLEMS

- What constitutes “participation”?
  - In-person classes
  - Online classes

- Expectations in post-sec settings
  - Rehabilitative – skill building
  - Compensatory – design of course

IDENTIFYING LIKELY SOLUTIONS

- Coping Mechanisms
  - Relaxation techniques
  - Desensitization
  - Work with therapist/counselor

- Scenarios for which we have accommodated
  - Solutions we created with faculty and other DS professionals

GO TIGERS!

- Insert slides from Marianne Glaser re: one possible solution

- Her approach to working with challenging situations

- The Maymester class created for students with challenges
QUESTIONS?

Thank you for your attention and participation!
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