



# About the National Oratory Fellows Program at Ford's Theatre

Ford's Theatre is a historic site and a working theatre, but it is also a place where teachers learn how to help students find their voice. The National Oratory Fellows program is a multi-year national cohort of teachers learning to integrate public speaking and performance skills into their curriculum.

## Ford's Theatre Oratory Approach

Teachers who are accepted into the National Oratory Fellows program learn powerful new approaches to help students develop core curricular skills.



## Classroom Tools

Fellows learn to use these and other core oratory teaching strategies:



**Podium Points:** Coach students in nine specific oral and physical skills of effective speaking



**Connecting to Texts:** Help students understand historical context and speaker motivation through close reading



**Rhetorical Triangle:** Teach students to recognize and deploy three key elements of persuasion



**Warm and Cool Feedback:** Build a classroom culture of constructive feedback as students support each other's development as effective speakers

## How we work with teachers:

The National Oratory Fellows is designed around proven approaches for making lasting change in teacher practice:

National Professional Learning community for collaboration and support



**LONG-TERM ENGAGEMENT:** Teachers stay in the program for multiple years, learning increasingly sophisticated techniques and becoming leaders within the program's PD

In-person professional development retreats twice per year



Monthly online professional development



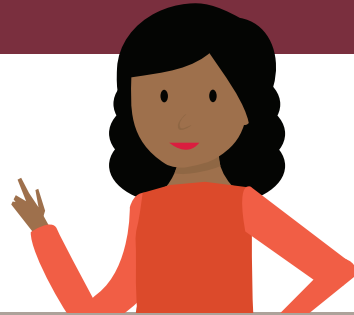
In-classroom coaching from Teaching Artists





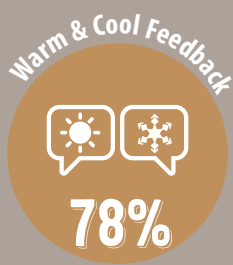
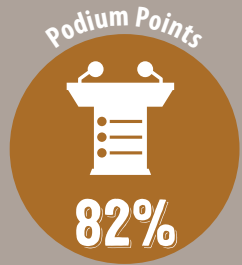
# Three-Year, Mixed Methods Evaluation Found These Impacts

## Impacts on teachers



### Using the Tools:


Large majorities of Fellows use core tools at least monthly




### Addressing Standards:

 The oratory approach helps teachers better address the often overlooked Speaking and Listening goals in the Common Core standards

### Teaching Skills:

 Educators increase their confidence in a range of teaching skills related to teaching and argumentation

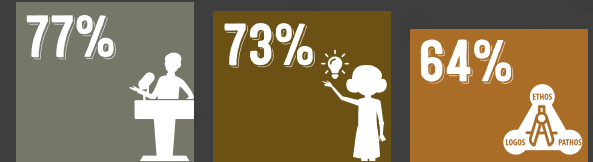
### Enriching the Curriculum:

 Fellows create more opportunities to develop student voice across the curriculum






## Impacts on students

Based on data collected from teachers and directly from students, including matched comparison classrooms, students in oratory classrooms improve:






Percentage of Fellows who say the oratory program had a major impact on their students' ability to do these things.

-  Their confidence in delivering speeches
-  Their confidence in expressing their ideas generally
-  Their skills in argumentation (including their ability to construct logical arguments, use evidence, deploy different forms of persuasion, and disagree respectfully)

## Lasting legacies

Ford's Theatre makes a long-term investment in Oratory Fellows, and the program has lasting impacts beyond changes in teaching practice:

-  Fellows develop as teacher leaders, within and beyond the program
-  Fellows disseminate oratory approaches through professional training and conferences, from their own schools and districts to national events
-  They create local oratory events to engage more students and teachers



For oratory lessons plans, classroom tools and videos, visit [www.fords.org/for-teachers](http://www.fords.org/for-teachers)