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.

- Reading and analyzing historical speeches
- Writing persuasive speeches
- Speaking and performing
- Listening and responding

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
- Rhetorical Triangle: Teach students to recognize and deploy three key elements of persuasion
- Connecting to Texts: Help students understand historical context and speaker motivation through close reading
- 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:

- In-person professional development retreats twice per year
- Monthly online professional development
- National Professional Learning community for collaboration and support
- In-classroom coaching from Teaching Artists

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

www.fords.org/for-teachers
Impacts on students

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

- 77% of Fellows who say the oratory program had a major impact on their students’ ability to do these things.
- 73% Their confidence in delivering speeches
- 64% Their skills in argumentation (including their ability to construct logical arguments, use evidence, deploy different forms of persuasion, and disagree respectfully)

Impacts on teachers

- Using the Tools: Large majorities of Fellows use core tools at least monthly
  - Podium Points: 82%
  - Warm & Cool Feedback: 78%
  - Theatre Games: 69%

- 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

For oratory lessons plans, classroom tools and videos, visit www.fords.org/for-teachers