

## Reasons & Rationale for Oral Presentations

Why are oral presentations a necessary and useful assignment?

### Students learn in various ways

Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences describes the many different learning styles students bring to the classroom. An oral presentation is a useful tool for engaging students who may be active (bodily kinesthetic), extroverted (extrapersonal), and oral learners (verbal/linguistic), while helping to develop these skills in others.

### Some students learn better by doing

Scholarship tells us that information retention is often dramatically improved when material is communicated orally.

### Oral Competence = Self-Confidence

Oral presentations are hard! But, students should, and can, complete them successfully. Effective successful oral communication often builds confidence.

### Oral Competence = Well-Educated

Around the world, the mark of a well-educated person is reading well, writing well, and *speaking* well. First impressions are often influenced by one's ability to articulate ideas in speech.

### Reasons Specific to Communication Studies

The National Communication Association established basic oral communication competencies for college graduates culled from articles published in top tier journals in the Speech Communication field.