



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Speech Proficiency Exam Instructions

Length: 5 to 7 minutes, timed. Missing the time parameters will result in failure of the exam.

Topic: The explanation of a musical concept, or the step-by-step demonstration of a musical process. Many possible topics exist, but some examples include:

- “Proper Breathing Technique for Playing the Clarinet”
- “Building Major and Minor Scales”
- “How to Play the Autoharp”
- “Musical Characteristics of the Baroque Period”

Note: The speech topic must be approved prior to the exam date! Please discuss the topic with your applied professor. Once a topic has been chosen, contact the exam supervisor, Dr. Bruce Faske, at bfaske@astate.edu to submit your topic and schedule the exam date.

Required Materials:

1. At least one self-prepared visual aid. Your instrument will not count as a visual aid.
2. Typed outline of speech, along with complete citations of any sources used.
3. At least three sources used, with at least two cited in the speech.
4. No more than three 4”x6” note cards may be used, with writing on one side of each card only.

Criteria: To be successful, students must:

1. Present a suitable, pre-approved topic.
2. Show evidence of organization (content-introduction, body of speech, and conclusion/summary) and pre-planning (visual aids and supporting materials).
3. Provide copies of the typed speech outline to each examiner.
4. Deliver the speech in a conversational manner, with appropriate vocal inflections and non-verbal gestures.
5. Use language appropriate for a secondary school audience.
6. Adhere to the time limits.