

The Center for the Advancement of Teaching and the Temple General Education Program invite faculty to apply for the

Faculty Learning Community on Oral Communication in GenEd Courses

Oral Communication is one of the eight program-wide GenEd competencies and one of three that must be addressed in every GenEd course. A survey of 287 GenEd instructors carried out by the Temple University GenEd Program in 2019 found that while 98% of respondents encouraged oral communication in their classrooms, only 59% used a formal assessment of oral communication and even fewer (43%) provided intentional instruction on it. Respondents indicated that some of the reasons they did not incorporate oral communication into their class planning were that larger class sizes were prohibitive, students were reluctant, and they did not have enough information on how to address the competency. Instructors also noted challenges related to addressing oral communication in online courses and supporting English language learners and students with accommodations connected to class participation.

During spring 2020, GenEd formed a working group of instructors to develop clearer guidelines for oral communication in GenEd. This spring 2021 faculty learning community for GenEd instructors will continue the working group's efforts by exploring the following questions:

- How can I create activities and assignments that align with my learning goals while developing oral communication skills?
- What are the best methods for helping students to develop oral communication skills that can be applied successfully in various contexts?
- How can oral communication instruction and assessment address students from diverse backgrounds and who have varying levels of comfort with public speaking?
- How can we think about oral communication in the online classroom?
- What resources would be most helpful to GenEd instructors in their course planning?

Throughout the semester, faculty will develop oral communication activities and assignments to implement in their own GenEd courses in future semesters. Faculty will also help identify and develop resources related to oral communication that can be made available to future GenEd instructors.

Benefits:

- Enhanced understanding of how to implement instruction, assignments, and assessments that support the GenEd goal of oral communication.
- Help students develop oral communication skills critical for success throughout their

- studies, in their careers, and as participants in the civil sphere.
- Network with an interdisciplinary group of colleagues.
- Additionally, all participants will receive a complimentary copy of Joshua Eyster's *How Humans Learn*.

Regular meetings will include hands-on workshops, readings, discussions, and collaborative working sessions. The faculty learning community will decide as a group how best to use the expertise they gain in order to support the Temple faculty community at large.

Facilitators: Dana Dawson, Associate Director, General Education; Thomas Wright, Associate Professor of Instruction, Communication and Social Influence; Kyle Vitale, Associate Director, Center for the Advancement of Teaching

What is a Faculty Learning Community?

A faculty learning community is a cross-disciplinary group of 10-12 faculty who work together over an extended period of time to explore a specific topic related to their professional teaching practice. In this supportive environment, faculty explore best practices, engage in deep discussion about the topic and then share their work with the faculty community at large so as to support their colleagues in this area.

Faculty commit to:

- Attend meetings Thursdays from 9:30-11:00am on January 28, February 11, February 25, March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22, 2021 and one August date TBD by the group.
- Complete readings, activities and assignments between meetings.
- Share the expertise gained in the faculty learning community with a larger faculty audience. This may include giving a presentation, providing resource materials on the topic, publishing the findings of the work, or another method agreed upon by the group.

To Apply:

Please respond to this [call](#) to participate **by Sunday, December 13th**, keeping in mind that we ask that you commit to attending the faculty learning community meetings. The form will ask you to answer the following question:

1. Describe your experience with teaching oral communication in your GenEd course.
2. What do you consider to be the most challenging aspect of teaching oral communication?
3. What do you hope to gain as a result of your participation in this faculty learning community?

Questions? Contact the Center for the Advancement of Teaching at cat@temple.edu