

Providing Oral Presentation Support to Students

At RIT's **Expressive Communication Center (ECC)**, students meet with peer consultants for help with all phases of presentation preparation and delivery, including but not limited to

- Selecting a topic
- Preparing an outline
- Designing slides
- Practicing delivery
- Managing communication apprehension

The content of every session is different because consultants focus on students' individual needs. In-person, virtual, & small group appointments available

- **In-person appointments.** Students arrive at **Wallace Library, suite A600** at their scheduled appointment time.
- **Virtual individual appointments.** To join a virtual appointment, shortly before their appointment time, students log in to rit.edu/ecc, click on their appointment, and then select the red 'start or join online consultation' link.
- **Small group appointments.** Because of social distancing guidelines, in-person group appointments are temporarily unavailable. However, small groups may schedule virtual appointments. To do this, one group member makes the appointment, and on the appointment intake form, selects the "group" option and provides the emails of the other group members. A Zoom meeting join link will be emailed to the group members.

If students require interpreting services, interpreting requests must be made through Access Services. (We also currently have one undergraduate peer consultant on staff who is conversationally fluent in ASL.)

If you include speaking assignments in your courses—such as presentations, group presentations, debates, discussions, and oral exams—the ECC director is available to work with you on devising those assignments and their associated grading. The ECC also has various resources to help you meet these goals.

Faculty can require or recommend that students visit the ECC, either for a specific assignment, or for general support.

Some things to consider when including speaking assignments to your class

- Are presentations scattered throughout the semester (e.g., two students present current events each week) or are presentations a large project due later in the semester?
- How long will students be asked to speak, and how does that translate into class periods to be set aside?
- Could students record a presentation with the ECC to reduce in-class time?
- What portions of the grade will be focused on content and on delivery?
- What rubrics or grading criteria are used to evaluate?
- If students are presenting in a group, how much of the grade is shared among all group members and how much is variable from student to student?
- Are students required to visit the ECC or just encouraged? Are they given extra credit?
- Do you want students to come for a rehearsal or can they come for help developing content?
- Does it matter how far in advance of the project students come to the ECC?
- Would it help to have an ECC consultant and/or director visit the class to talk about services and/or teach a small lesson?

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Sample Syllabus/Assignment Statements

- This assignment emphasizes the importance of oral communication skills. A preparatory appointment at the Expressive Communication Center (ECC) is strongly recommended.
- A mandatory component of the oral presentation is that you and your partner make an appointment with the Expressive Communication Center (ECC) and practice your presentation at the Center. You will receive feedback about your presentation from the Center; use it.
- Groups should practice together to ensure that the necessary information will fit in the allotted time. All members of the group are responsible for making sure that the group does not go over your allocated time. Your group can schedule an appointment to practice and receive feedback with the Expressive Communication Center (ECC).
- A consultation with the Expressive Communication Center (ECC) is a required component of this assignment.
- You should contact the Expressive Communication Center (ECC) as soon as possible to schedule a practice presentation at least 24 hours in advance of your class presentation. This is not required but it is strongly recommended, and presentations that go to the ECC will get +2 points in the final grade (e.g., if your final grade is 93 and you went to the ECC 24 hours ahead of your presentation, your grade will increase to 95).
- Students are required to go to the Expressive Communication Center (ECC) for a dry-run of the first and last presentation. Failure to go to the ECC will reduce your grade by 1 point. The ECC can get busy, so make an appointment early.
- I recommend that you visit the Expressive Communication Center (ECC) in Wallace Library (suite A600) for a consultation at least two days before this speech to receive feedback on your content and delivery.

Reach out with questions or to learn more about how the ECC might support your course!

Elizabeth Reeves O'Connor

Principal Lecturer, School of Communication
Director, Expressive Communication Center
eargpt@rit.edu / x6016

Dr. Kelly Norris Martin

Director, School of Communication
kelly.martin@rit.edu / X2142