Standards Focus

Objectives

Students will use verbal and nonverbal techniques to write and deliver oral presentations.

Preteach

Speak with a Purpose Write the following sentence starters on the board.

- When I was six, I always . . .
- The funniest thing that ever happened to me was . . .
- You'll never believe this, but . . .

Have students complete the sentences aloud. Explain that these sentences catch a listener's attention because they are funny or surprising.

Direct Teach

Guided Practice

Adapt Your Personal Narrative

Tell students to arrange the events of their written narrative in chronological order. For the oral presentation, have students add transition words, such as *first* and *next* to help listeners to follow the order of events.

SKILLS FOCUS pp. 136–137

Listening and Speaking Skills

- Organize and present oral interpretations: experiences.
- Consider style when speaking.
- Demonstrate effective verbal and nonverbal techniques when speaking.
- Practice/rehearse before presenting oral messages.
- Prepare delivery notes when speaking.

Listening & Speaking Workshop

Presenting an Oral Narrative

Speak with a Purpose

Adapt your written narrative into an oral narrative. After you have practiced delivering your narrative, present it to your class.

Think as a Reader/Writer Good stories aren't always fiction. They can be true stories about experiences that people have lived through. In fact, you probably tell such stories all the time—when you tell your friends about skiing over the weekend or about the time you had to rescue your cat from a tree. In this workshop you will turn a true story, or a personal narrative, into an oral presentation.

Adapt Your Personal Narrative

Make It Interesting

Think about how to tell your story so that you will capture your audience's attention. Remember, since your audience is listening to your narrative, not reading it, they have only one chance to understand what you are saying. Use these tips to help you develop an oral presentation your listeners will enjoy.

- **Background Information** Include extra information your listeners might need to understand your narrative.
- **Realistic Dialogue** Try to re-create the actual words of the people involved in the events.
- **Specific Action** Describe events directly and clearly.
- **Word Choice** Use vivid verbs and precise nouns to describe people, settings, and things. Use verbs that express either physical or mental activity (as opposed to *be* verbs such as *is, were, am,* and *been*).
- **Sensory Details** Select words that appeal to one or more of the five senses—sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell.
- **Organization** Tell your story in chronological order. Use transitions to help listeners follow your story.
- **Conclusion** Sum up your story by sharing with listeners why your experience was memorable, fun, scary, or eye-opening.

Streamline

After you consider what to include, look back at your written narrative and consider what you can exclude. Remember that some words that are necessary for your readers may not be needed for your listeners—who will be receiving additional information through your delivery.

Reader/Writer Notebook

Use your **RWN** to complete the activities for this workshop.

Resources

Writing and Speaking Workshops, on-level practice and assessment, p. 10

Differentiating Instruction, modified lesson plans and teaching strategies

Teacher One Stop™, on-level lesson plans and all print resources

Deliver Your Personal Narrative

Engage Your Audience

Acting out information, rather than depending solely on your words, is an effective—and often more interesting—way to communicate an idea. **Verbal techniques,** the manner in which you use your voice, and **nonverbal techniques,** the manner in which you use your body, can help you communicate your message. For example, instead of telling your audience that a character is angry, you can show them by using facial expressions (such as scowling or glaring), raising the pitch of your voice to a shrill level, or changing the tone of your voice to sound irritated.

Verbal Techniques	Nonverbal Techniques
Volume No matter how loudly or softly you speak, be sure your audience can understand you.	**Facial Expressions** Smiling or frowning, looking puzzled or surprised can help you convey your meaning.
Rate Speak fast enough not to bore your listeners and slowly enough that they can follow your presentation.	**Gestures** Pointing, reaching, or banging can add emphasis to what you say, but be careful not to gesture needlessly.
Pitch Qualities of pitch, or modulation—such as high, low, shrill, musical, or rumbling—can help clarify your meaning.	**Posture** Whether you stand straight or slouch can influence the way your audience reacts to what you say.
Tone Your attitude toward what you are saying, such as amused, angry, or serious, should be clear from the tone of your voice.	**Appearance** You may want to dress more formally for a serious presentation but wear casual clothes for a humorous one.

Practice! Practice!

Practice your presentation in front of a mirror. Then, try a rehearsal in front of friends. Listen to their feedback, and consider their ideas as you practice and improve your presentation.

Note It

To avoid finding yourself tongue-tied when you present your personal narrative, jot down some notes. Your notes should be brief and easy to read so that you can glance at them without losing eye contact with your audience.

A Good Oral Presentation

- focuses on a single, important event
- contains details that allow listeners to visualize the people, settings, and events in the narrative
- is clearly organized so that listeners can easily follow the story
- holds listeners' attention through effective verbal and nonverbal techniques

Speaking Tip

Don't forget to breathe, and avoid rushing through your story. One way to stay in control is to pay attention to the punctuation in the written version of your narrative. Pause briefly for commas. Pause longer at periods. Allow your voice to convey the emotions indicated by question marks and exclamation points.

Learn It Online

Bring your presentation to a wider audience. Use the *Digital Storytelling* mini-site at:

go.hrw.com L8-137 Go

Differentiating Instruction

English-Language Learners

Remind students to choose precise verbs to describe action, including the action that pertains to dialogue. Have students help you brainstorm precise and interesting verbs that mean *to say* (for example, *suggest, name, declare, promise, vow, hint*). Then, have students choose some of these verbs to use in their oral presentations.

Learners Gaining Proficiency

Tell students that nonverbal techniques can help listeners understand what a speaker means. For instance, when a speaker wants to show excitement about something, he or she may use a high pitch and a happy tone. He or she may also speak quickly and with a smile. Have students practice the gestures, pitch, and tone that match the content of their personal narratives.

Guided Practice

Deliver Your Personal Narrative

Tell a brief personal story without varying your volume, rate, pitch, or tone, and without using facial expressions and gestures. Then, retell the story using a variety of nonverbal techniques to make the story more interesting. Ask students how each presentation impacted them differently as listeners.

Reteach

Note It

Give students practice strategies to improve the nonverbal part of their presentation.

- Have students create cards that include notes about nonverbal techniques and performance directions next to the main points of their oral presentation. These notes will remind them to vary their pace, pitch, volume, and tone.
- Provide a mirror for students to watch themselves as they practice their presentations. Students should try using different facial expressions and gestures.

Assess

Writing and Speaking Workshops, Presenting an Oral Narrative analytical scale and rubric

Learn It Online

The Digital Storytelling mini-site shows students how to take a personal experience and craft it into a short film—complete with music , images, and special effects. Preview at **go.hrw.com**.

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