



# TexasSpeaks

Monthly Newsletter  
January 2022



## White Paper



CONVENTION 2022  
ROCKWALL, TX  
OCTOBER 5-8, 2022

NEXT YEAR'S THEME:  
KEEP IT SIMPLE!

[Click here](#) to read TSCA's White Paper on: "Enhancing Student Choice by Allowing Oral Interpretation to Fulfill ELA Elective Credit and Fine Arts Credit"

The goal of this white paper is to provide support for Oral Interpretation as a course on campuses across Texas.

## HELPFUL LINKS

[2021 Resolutions](#)

[December 2021 Newsletter](#)

[Convention Minutes](#)

[TSCA Bylaws](#)

## CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT EXERCISE



### Character Valentines

In Oral Interpretation and Theatre, creating a well-rounded character is crucial to the success of a performance. In developing a character, performers must take the time to identify relationships both actively occurring in the scene and actively affecting the scene. Define the relationship and define what your character NEEDS from the relationship. Michael Shurtleff outlines 12 Guideposts in his book, *Audition*. It is no wonder that relationship is the first Guidepost he talks about. It is important to "find the love".

Have students select a character they are playing and a relationship that is important to their character. It should be a relationship that affects their goals - and is standing in the way of what they want to achieve. Students will then create and write a valentine card to this person from the perspective of their character. The valentine should represent the character's innermost desires. What do they wish they could say to this person? What do they wish this person would do for them? What do they wish they could do for this person?

This exercise allows students interactive practice with developing an internal monologue, defining relationships and their impact on achieving their goals, and setting importance to their scene.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

Two influential Texas Communication educators passed away in January. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Rosanna Herndon  
Virginia Myers Dorman

## SPEED DEBATING CLASSROOM EXERCISE

This is a great activity to help build skills of argumentation, impromptu speaking, creative thinking, and more!

Students will be randomly paired up with another student. Students will be assigned "A" or "B". Those who are B will be rotating throughout the classroom at the end of each timed session.

Students will be given a brief topic to debate and assigned a side. Marvel is better than DC; hotdogs are a sandwich, school should be year-round, and so on. Students will have three minutes to debate one another:

Person A - 1 minute to argue their assigned side.

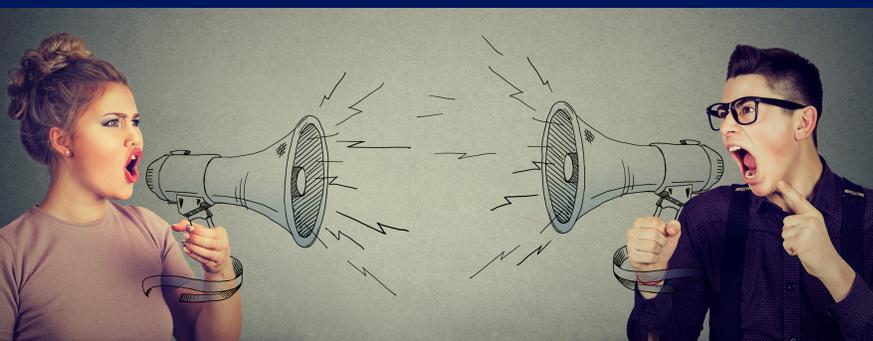
Person B - 1 minute to argue their assigned side.

Person A and B - 1 minute cross-examination

Person A - 30 second rebuttal

Person B - 30 second rebuttal

Students will then move onto their next "opponent" for a new topic.



## JOURNAL CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



[Click here](#) to read the call for submissions for our 2022 Academic Journal. We are seeking papers that focus on research in human communication.

Submissions must be received by:  
March 31, 2022.

## CALL FOR SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION

We will be publishing summer camp information for various camps hosted throughout Texas that will serve as educational resources for students - and teachers! Email [socialmediaTSCA@gmail.com](mailto:socialmediaTSCA@gmail.com) so we can include your camp information in upcoming newsletters!

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Were you named Teacher of the Year? Did your team partake in an awesome community service project? Do you have an amazing resource or lesson plan you would like to share with your fellow educators? Would you like to nominate someone for the member spotlight? Email [socialmediaTSCA@gmail.com](mailto:socialmediaTSCA@gmail.com) so we can include it in a future Newsletter!