



EMPOWERED™

ACTIVITY

SPEAK OUT CARDS

Speak Out Cards afford students the opportunity to practice standing in front of others and speaking extemporaneously. There is little risk, but high return for students during this activity all while building confidence. Speak Out Cards contain easy, medium, and hard questions or statement starters that can be randomized. It is truly up to you how you use them in your class.

PREPARATION

- Before class, decide how you want to approach the use of Speak Out Cards in your classroom. Some options follow:
- What cards to use:
 - Start easy: The first time you do Speak Out Cards, only use the easy ones. This will give your kids a chance to ease into them. As you move throughout the first month or two of the class, you can add in the medium and hard cards.
 - Let them choose: Offer two or three different levels of difficulty. If the kids want to do the harder ones, let them try
- Who will Speak Out:
 - Each student can Speak Out once.
 - You can randomly select students.
 - Ask for volunteers.
- How long will they Speak Out. A good way to do this is as follows:
 - Easy = 30 second
 - Medium = 60 seconds
 - Hard = 90 seconds
- How to award currency to them for Speaking Out. A suggestion on how to do this:
 - Easy = 5 Empowered dollars
 - Medium = 10 Empowered dollars
 - Hard = 15 Empowered dollars

ACTIVITY TIME	10 Minutes
FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES	
Integrity	Passion
Responsibility	Knowledge
KEY CONCEPTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Speaking• Pitching• Personal Choice• Freedom to Enter and Compete	
MATERIALS NEEDED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speak Out Card Prompts• Timer• Empowered Currency - Printed or Virtual	

INTRODUCTION

- A “pitch” is a short persuasive explanation of a business idea/model. Many people have a fear of public speaking, but it is important that we develop our speaking skills so we can share our ideas with others clearly, concise, and engaging. In this activity, you will be given a prompt to craft a response to then pitch to others, either in a video or through your writing.

ACTIVITY STEPS

1. Begin by explaining to students that the Empowered class utilizes “pitching” business ideas/models as a way to practice soft skills such as speaking and listening. A “pitch” is a short persuasive explanation of a business idea/model. To prepare them for their pitch, we are going to practice speaking in front of people in a variety of ways throughout the year. One of those ways is using Speak Out Cards.
2. Speak Out Cards come in three levels: easy, medium, and hard. A student will draw a Speak Out Card (level of card will be based on how you have decided to approach the activity). The student will then “speak out” based on what the card says.
 - a. Let them know how you will decide who will speak out, if you will be doing all three levels, how long they will be expected to speak, and how you will be incentivizing them.
3. You will also want to tell them what things you will be looking for while they are speaking out. For instance, the first time you do Speak Out Cards, you may only be expecting that they speak for the entire time allotted. As they get more comfortable you

might start expecting them to speak louder and more clearly, make more eye contact, have a better introduction and conclusion, etc.

4. Get started by taking a card yourself and giving the classroom an example of what to expect.
5. Now...Speak Out! Select your first student. Have them select their Speak Out Card. When they start speaking, start the timer. When they are done, pay them.
6. Repeat the last step!

ACTIVITY DEBRIEF

PRINCIPLES + MARKETS

- As an audience member, were you respectful and attentive of those speaking? Were you active listeners? Were you on our phones? Were you having side conversations? How did you demonstrate Responsibility while presenting, or being an audience member?
- How did you demonstrate Passion while pitching?
- Describe the Personal Choice you were able to exercise in this activity?
- What new Knowledge did you gain from listening to your classmates? Although public speaking may not be what you want to do in life, how can you utilize this skill in your future?
- How were you able to demonstrate using Integrity?

MINDSET

- Ask the students: What did I do well while I was speaking? Did I stay on topic? Did I speak clearly? Did I make eye contact? Was I aware of my audience, pivoting to adjust so they received the most benefit?
- What are some things I need to work on while I am speaking? Did I mumble? Did I stare at the floor? Did I say "um" or "like" too much? Was my voice too quiet? Did I fidget, sway, etc.?
- Were you more interested in earning Empowered dollars or were you motivated by something else?
- Why are public speaking and communication skills important in our personal and professional lives? Can practicing our communication skills help us reach our potential?
- What was a challenge you overcame with pitching?
- What did you learn about yourself while pitching your topic?
- The next time you pitch, what will you do differently based on what you learned today?



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