

Giving Feedback

Giving effective feedback is key to helping students grow and feel confident in their public speaking. This guide will help you provide feedback that is constructive, specific, and empowering.

1 Set up the session with purpose and positivity

Set a clear intention before you begin.

e.g. "Let's focus on how to take your already strong speech and polish it so it's Assembly Final-ready. You've done the hard part - now we're working on the details that will help you really shine."

And then share a genuine, specific strength you noticed from their speech last time you heard it.

e.g. "One thing that really stood out was your use of personal storytelling - it made your message feel powerful and authentic."

2 Use these Feedback Tools

Be Specific: "Try speaking a little slower and adding more variation in your tone - especially when you're building to your final point."

Something like "You need to work on your delivery" is too vague!

Use Quotes or Examples: Reference exact lines or moments in the speech. e.g. "When you said '62% of adults', you dropped your volume - try delivering that with more conviction so we hear every word."

Make It Safe and Encouraging: Public speaking is vulnerable! Frame feedback as growth, not judgement.

Emphasize progress: "Compared to last week, your delivery is already stronger."

Normalise nerves: "Everyone feels nervous - even professionals. What matters is how you use that energy."

3 Listen to their speech and structure your feedback

This helps keep feedback focused and balanced:

A. Start with what's working well

- Highlight specific moments. e.g. "Your pause after the statistic really lets the impact sink in."
- Reinforce strengths the student should keep using. e.g. "Your hand gestures are really effective at highlighting key points. You're not overdoing it, you've got it just right."

B. Then share something that could be improved

- Give one or two clear, actionable suggestions and frame it with encouragement. e.g. "One way you could make that example even more effective is by slowing your pace just before it - it'll create a dramatic pause."

C. End with a clear next step or goal

- Set a short-term focus for their next practise. e.g. "For your next run-through, focus on making eye contact with at least three different sections of the audience."