



# Well Spoken: Teaching Speaking to All Students

*Erik Palmer*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# Well Spoken: Teaching Speaking to All Students

*Erik Palmer*

## **Well Spoken: Teaching Speaking to All Students** Erik Palmer

All teachers at all grade levels in all subjects have speaking assignments for students, but many teachers believe they don't know how to teach speaking, and many even fear public speaking themselves. In his new book, *Well Spoken*, veteran teacher and education consultant Erik Palmer shares the art of teaching speaking in any classroom. Teachers will find thoughtful and engaging strategies for integrating speaking skills throughout the curriculum. Palmer stresses the essential elements of all effective oral communication, including:

- Building a Speech: Audience, Content, Organization, Visual Aids, and Appearance
- Performing a Speech: Poise, Voice, Life, Eye Contact, Gestures, and Speed
- Evaluating a Speech: Creating Effective Rubrics, Guiding Students to Excellence

*Well Spoken* contains a framework for understanding the skills involved in all effective oral communication, offers practical steps and lesson ideas that any teacher needs to successfully teach speaking in a variety of situations—from classroom discussions to formal presentations—and includes a set of tools for students—from how to grab the audience's attention to how to use emphatic hand gestures and adjust speed for effect.

Discover why, year after year, students returned to Palmer's classroom to thank him for teaching them how to be well spoken. You may find, after reading this book, that you have become a better speaker, too.

## **Well Spoken: Teaching Speaking to All Students Details**

Date : Published April 1st 2011 by Stenhouse Publishers (first published March 28th 2011)

ISBN : 9781571108814

Author : Erik Palmer

Format : Paperback 160 pages

Genre : Education, Teaching, Nonfiction, Academic, School

 [Download Well Spoken: Teaching Speaking to All Students ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Well Spoken: Teaching Speaking to All Students ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Well Spoken: Teaching Speaking to All Students Erik Palmer**

---

## **From Reader Review Well Spoken: Teaching Speaking to All Students for online ebook**

### **Marti says**

A great way to re-think or solidfy that which is already happening in the classroom when teaching kids to speak. I'm going to start - DAY ONE - practicing the art of speaking well with my students. By the end of the year, I hope to eliminate the go-to words and phrases "like," "you know" and "um yeah." It's a tall task, but it will happen one student at a time.

---

### **Andrew Shipe says**

I met Erik Palmer at a workshop last summer offered by my district and got this book for free. Palmer breaks down the process of giving a speech into "building" and "performing," with a set of traits that accompany each. There are good ideas for teaching those traits, as well as rubrics.

---

### **Ronni says**

Well developed book on a crucial topic in teaching, esp for Language Arts and Social Studies (who am I kidding, for any subject where you might ask students to provide an oral presentation, even informally). Doesn't skimp on the how or the why - offers practical instruction - concise and economical - no gaping holes in the coverage of the topic - positive approach.

---

### **Emily says**

This book is a great guide for learning how to teach speech to students from all ages in high school and middle school. I love all of the practical lesson plans and activities. Using PVLEGS makes teaching speech performance skills far easier. I am going to apply many of these principles myself that Palmer presents here.

---

### **Christen Mamenko says**

Great, straight-forward book - can't wait to implement it this fall in my classroom!

---

### **Heather says**

Interesting book. He makes a great case for teaching public speaking and offers good advice on how to do that. Links speaking to reading and writing as well. Much of what he says can be fit into the regular classtime, but he often puts the speaking part first as if that will be the key to unlocking struggling readers and writers. Forgets that there is other kinds of talk as well. I have mixed feelings on this book. The first part

was excellent; the second part only useful if you have the time to teach it.

---

### **Ken says**

A rather simple and straightforward approach to public speaking, but it seems that speaking skills, along with vocabulary, are getting shoved aside thanks to the onerous demands of reading and writing workshops PLUS (lest we forget) test-taking strategies and skills. If you've done little public speaking instruction, I think this book will serve well as it is short and sweet with all the basics. If you have experience already, it is less desirable, as you might be disappointed in the lack of new ideas. That is, you may find yourself saying, "I could have written much of this."

Among the odd suggestions is that students write out an entire speech. When Palmer writes this, he is unclear whether the students should read it or not, and obviously, if eye contact is one of the criteria being graded, that would create a problem. So, when he gets to the eye contact chapter, the write-it-out suggestion is all but gone. Now he's more reasonably saying one or two index cards. How else can they practice looking up?

The other questionable idea is asking for a "good sport" willing to go up and wing it so the teacher can critique him. Palmer's so-called good natured "critique" consists of going up and exaggerating all the mistakes the kid just made. The class LOVES it, he assures us. Uh... duh. And as long as it's all in fun and the speaker agreed, that's cool, too, he seems to intimate. What he doesn't realize is how many kids "play along" and laugh with you only to go home mulling over the incident. Very. Bad. Idea.

Finally, and quaintly, Palmer suggests kids "dress up" on speech day to show the importance of the assignment. Guess the cover photographer didn't read the book. The speaker's in jeans. (Nice shirt, though.)

---

### **Emily Cave says**

What a great resource for teachers! This needs to be a mandatory read for every teacher.

---

### **Katie Hjellum says**

I enjoyed this book -- not only because I can implement ideas presented in the book (re: oral communication) in the classroom, there are also some tactics presented that I hope to utilize myself. Palmer's writing style is not only informative, but very engaging.

---

### **Thomas M. Burby says**

This book was a re-read for me and while it is not a book my students would be interested in, it does offer a variety of public speaking ideas for almost any class, along with a manner of assessment that focuses on the presentation itself, not the content. School have focused on reading, writing and math so heavily that the skill of speaking has been ignored. We write, we read, but we speak more than these combined! This book allows the teacher the freedom to find opportunities for public speaking often, not just for use with major projects. I would give this book four out of five stars, but the last part of the book I would definitely give 6 stars if I

could. The rubric is well-done.

---

### **Mrs. Lapacka says**

This is a great professional development book. I've read bits and pieces of it over this semester, and worked on including some of the strategies into my oral presentations. I'll be referencing it in the future.

---

### **Tara says**

True story: At a sophomore in high school, I delivered a speech on the life of Charlie Chaplin. Since this was back in the 20th century, I rented a VHS of one of his old silent movies and played it on the TV behind me while I gave the speech. My master plan was to get the eyes off of me and onto the video. It worked. I read my speech.

I never received any true instruction in giving a speech; therefore, I tend to struggle teaching speaking skills. This book broke down the elements of public speaking in a way that will help me better teach my students.

I found his argument for explicitly teaching these skills persuasive; however, I felt he could have made more explicit and repeated connections between speaking and writing. That may have helped him persuade those who claim that there isn't enough time to teach speaking.

I found his suggestions on how to teach building a speech validated some of my other practices in the teaching of writing. However, I have been in the biz for quite a long time. I would imagine that his suggestions would be amazing for novice teachers.

Personally, his section on teaching the six components of speaking was invaluable. I felt that he broke down the elements in such a way that I can really teach students. The rubrics in the back are amazing. I may disagree with some of his suggested tactics for instruction, but the bigger picture outweighed that slight criticism.

---

### **B says**

This needs some adaptation for second language learners, but it is a clear and easily explained approach to speaking rubrics.

---

### **Joy Kirr says**

I was introduced to this book through Sandy Otto's presentation at USMSparks in June. My take-away from her session was that we often require "eye contact," "poise," etc. in student speeches, but do we really teach those skills? Do we even have mini lessons?? I know at 7th grade at my school, we currently don't. Hopefully, now that I've read this easy-to-digest book, we will.

Some strategies Erik Palmer suggests are easy to implement and have already started in my own classes. I no

longer repeat students who are too quiet, so the rest of the class can hear. I now ask those students to speak up, because their voices are needed (and they need to learn how to project their voices). Other suggestions will not make it into our classes, as I think 7th graders already are embarrassed too many times to count during a day, and I won't be the teacher that does that to them. My next step is to loan this book to a former student who has a goal of speaking at graduation night in June!!

---

### **Amanda says**

This is a valuable resource to help teach students invaluable speaking skills that benefit them inside the classroom, but most importantly, in the real world as well.

---