

G.A.T.E.WAYS invites high-ability Year 3 & 4 students with a love of learning and public speaking to ...

Comms Experts to the Rescue!

Mossman Grove is a quiet place where nothing out of the ordinary ever happens. One sunny Monday however, the mayor does not arrive at work to do her daily briefing. Shock, horror!! The locals are devastated as Mayor Mackenzie is a much-loved leader who always keeps residents up to date on local issues, concerns and news through her very popular daily speech. It is quite common for workers, students, stay home parents and retirees to tune in at 12 each day for the broadcast. This emergency calls for a CREATIVE response! Can you come to the rescue and join a newly-formed 'comms'(communications) team to fill the gap?



This four session Journey for boys and girls will focus on the development of oral skills and will call upon them to write some sharp speeches, develop persuasive arguments, explore verbal and non-verbal communication, polish your skills on how to effectively respond to questions and develop fluency in presentation.

Requirements:

- A notebook and a well-stocked pencil case with writing pencil, sharpener, eraser for edits, coloured pencils and textas, scissors and glue stick, and a display folder with A4 plastic pockets.
- Bring a snack or lunch, as required.

Session 1: *The Disappearance of Mayor Mackenzie*

Our Journey begins with an unconfirmed leak from within the mayor's media department. The rumour is that she has been called out to assist with a top-secret emergency in another city, and that she won't be back in town for some weeks. Under no circumstances is this information to be disclosed to the public. Now that our Comms team has been rushed into existence, it is time to meet each other. Each member has a brief minute to show why they are a good addition to the team. Go for it team!

This session will unpack the key elements of a powerful and engaging speech, which include a sharp opening that hooks the audience, a middle that takes the audience on a journey and tells a story, and an ending that pulls the story threads together. We'll listen to some powerful speeches and reflect on the positives that we observed from our initial speeches. Working in groups we'll use a 'Speech Tracker', incorporating these key elements as well as our new learnings, to write and present our first public speech to the residents of Mossman Grove about what the city wants them to know about Mayor Mackenzie's disappearance and what to expect in her absence. How effective will our first broadcast be?

Session 2: *Another Local Disaster*

Unfortunately, more trouble has hit Mossman Grove this week with major controversies surrounding school sport and the school canteen. After lengthy but unsuccessful negotiations, Coach Fraser has resigned in disgust! Without any consultation, the Mossman Grove School Council has decided to 'pull the plug' on interschool competitions, leaving sports teams with no games to play. Mrs Scott, the canteen manager has also resigned, after the selling of sweet drinks and icy poles were banned by the school council. According to Mrs Scott, these were the biggest sellers and the move will make the canteen 'go under'. Now parents are demanding a whole school meeting!

In today's broadcast selected comms specialists will debate the issues. To be chosen, you will need to argue the pros and cons of one of these issues and present your case as strongly as possible. You'll need to take a whole range of issues into consideration aside from just the arguments. How will you incorporate persuasive devices, how will you use body language and voice? How will you ensure that your speech has maximum impact and that you don't have to rely on notes which will detract from your impact?

You'll have the chance to present first and receive some constructive feedback before we choose who should front the broadcast for Mossman Grove residents. Not much time to lose before the local school's parents get a chance to vote at the meeting.

Session 3: And heading today's news bulletin...Health Scare in Mossman Grove!

As if things can't get any worse in Mossman Grove – an outbreak of food poisoning has been identified by the local doctor. Residents are dropping like flies and public health officials have traced the outbreak to the town's most popular restaurant, *Bumping Burgers*. For now, the restaurant has been ordered to close. No doubt the local kids will be upset as the Friday night town tradition of hamburgers 'with the lot' is suspended till the specific source of contamination is confirmed and eliminated.

You and your colleagues will take over the news desk today with a bulletin to inform residents about the crisis and what they should and shouldn't do to ensure everyone remains safe. You'll prepare interviews with the town's health officer and Jack Frost, the first local resident to be cut down by the poisoning, before crossing to the Prime Minister in Canberra to hear the national view on this disaster.

You'll need to practise and refine your broadcasting skills, prioritize major points, deliver reports to strict time limits and ensure that you are demonstrating the appropriate tone. Can the team pull all of this off? Let's hope so!

Session 4: You're On!

Mayor Mackenzie is back! It appears that her secret emergency has been solved. People in her office have told her all about your fantastic efforts and she is so impressed with your skill and dedication that she now wants you to help her out with a number of community problems that face the town. What a vote of confidence!! Of course, some of these matters are public knowledge and some are not, so ssshhh! Today you get to read through the council files on a range of upcoming local controversies. Did you know that plans were afoot to close the local swimming pool or that the commonwealth government is planning a dangerous waste disposal facility on the outskirts of the town?

Working in teams, you'll need to analyse relevant issues, organize information, adding illustrations and other relevant symbols to develop a standout visual display. You'll get the chance to present your findings and then to respond to questions.

At the end of the session we will celebrate all we have learnt as we walk away with strategies to propel us into the future as confident public speakers!

Homework

There will be some homework set between sessions to enable students to prepare and refine their skills.

- Before the first session, please complete and bring along the personal story-telling template ready to give a short introduction on yourself. This template will be sent to you following registration.
- Some preparation work will be required between sessions.

About the presenter:

Annette Subhani is an educator, a parent and a person of varied life experience with a passion and desire to contribute to the character development of children from an early age. She has been presenting with G.A.T.E.WAYS for over five years and she thrives on working collaboratively with children. Annette encourages students to question the world around them and to transfer their learning to real-life. She has a love of history, reading and literature, maths, story-telling, the arts and living life.