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Exploring Public Speaking: 4th Edition

Alexis Johnson

OER Review: An OER – is an Open Educational Resource that allows a faculty member to deliver a course without expense to students. Please refer to the Library Guide to find OER Resources: https://bit.ly/oersources   By adopting an OER, you could have your course identified as ZTC- Zero Textbook Cost.

Faculty Member Name: Dr. Alexis Johnson
Department: Communication and Media Studies

What OER Book are you reviewing (Title): Exploring Public Speaking: 4th Edition
Location/ Link where it can be found: https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/communication-textbooks/1/

Does the author have appropriate authority of standing to release a book? (Professor associated with a university etc..) Yes all of the authors are associated with the same university (Dalton State College)

For what course are you reviewing this book: Public Speaking

What is this course's average enrollment:
Fall: 25 per class or 150 total
Spring: 25 per class or 150 total
Summer: 25

What is the current resources used for this class and how much does it generally cost? A Pocket Guide to Public Speaking Sixth Edition by Dan O'Hair, Hannah Rubenstein, and Robert Stewart. It costs about 30 dollars.

What are your course objectives for this course? (copy and paste)

Which chapters or sections align to each course objective.

Course Objective	Section or Chapter that addresses it.
Identify fundamental elements of Public Speaking	Chapter 1: The Basics of Public Speaking
Demonstrate an understanding of how to actively listen	Chapter 2: Audience Analysis and Listening
Explain how to adapt your speeches to meet the needs of your audience	Chapter 2: Audience Analysis and Listening
Evaluate research sources	Chapter 5: Researching your speeches
Organize and outline a speech	Chapter 6: Organizing and Outlining your Speech
Develop a Persuasive Speech	Chapter 13: Persuasive Speaking
Develop an Informative Speech	Chapter 12: Informative Speaking
Develop a Special Occasion Speech	Chapter 15: Special Occasion Speaking

Which Course objectives are not covered in the book.

Course Objective
All course objectives are covered

If you were to use this book, what would be your plan to find material to meet the uncovered objectives? (One option is to find another OER to meet it. Multiple Open Educational Resources can be used for a course)
My course objectives are actually met in this book. There is a chapter to cover each course objective and then some. I really appreciate that they have chapters that focus on each type of speech we typically give in the class.

Are there additional materials available (power points, test questions etc..)
This book does have additional materials. They have some materials that they specify fit with the current edition of the book (from their third edition). It includes Power Point slides and test bank questions. Something I do want to note about this book is it does have kindle versions that students can download. I suppose this could also be in the strengths, but I think this is a really good option for students to be able to access the book. I have a lot of students who own kindles.

Is the author contact information available to contact if there are more materials?
There are multiple authors for this text and all of the authors have their contact information available.

What are the strengths of this book? (Think: writing style, citations, currency, diagrams etc..)
The book is well organized and something that I appreciate about this book is it does have a section for each of the different speech types. I think it is important for students to be able to have sections dedicated to that type of speaking. I do think that the pictures are effective and break up the text a book. Using thoughtful images can be useful for students who are visual to relate to the textbook that they are looking at. They use credible scholarly work in the field of public speaking that is consistent with the current textbook that I use. They also did a nice job of incorporating exemplars within the text to make the book relatable to students. Again, I just wish it wasn't written like a traditional textbook and maybe was broken down with links to sections to make it more manageable to students. They have activities in the book that students can engage in, which I appreciate. Having ways that students can apply the work is fundamental to learning, especially in communication contexts. They also have things to consider or think about at the end of each chapter, which is great for me to assign and be able to bring into class for the next discussion. I can do this for all types of modalities and all students can be on the same page.

What are the weaknesses of this book?

I really thought breaking the book into more accessible and smaller chunks that I saw in the last book I reviewed was a bit more effective. This book is written like your typical college textbook and I think sometimes when chapters seem longer they can be overwhelming to students and may be a barrier to them actually reading the book. I don't mind the definitions on the side, but I worry about how this looks depending on the device you are using. It seemed a little harder to read on my phone. Maybe the kindle version would look better on my phone.

To be able to use this book – what will you have to supplement?
I would maybe consider using a couple of these books as supplemental work and have students read certain chapters. This book has everything that I would need to feel confident students are getting material that they need from public speaking.

Compared to your previous purchased book – is the effort required to use this OER worth it _ why or why not?
Yes, it is. This book not only has great information and covers all of my course objectives; it also has resources for faculty members. I typically make all of my own assignments and power points, but it is nice to be able to pull from material created by the author to assist in that creation process. It is also really wonderful that these scholars include activities and questions to consider that I can work into my class assignments and activities.

If you were to use this book, would you also use a homework system? If yes, which one would you use (LibreTexts and Lumen learning are some examples)
I would not use a homework system. I would make my own assignments that relate to the text and put them onto blackboard ultra. I don't know a ton about these homework systems.

Please submit the completed review to: oer@atu.edu