DSST Principles of Public Speaking (CLEP) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

BY EXAMZIFY

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Questions

SAMPLE

1. **An example presented in the form of a story is known as which of the following?**

   A. Presentation aid

   B. Explanation

   C. Illustration

   D. Narration

2. **Which of the following often helps speakers relieve excess energy and apprehension during a speech?**

   A. Practicing and preparing in advance

   B. Making appropriate gestures and bodily movements

   C. Taking slow, deep breaths before speaking

   D. Making eye contact with friends in the audience

3. **Complimenting the audience, using personal examples, and using specific names of audience members are ways to develop which of the following during a speech?**

   A. Clarity

   B. Credibility

   C. Immediacy

   D. Vividness

4. **Once a speech topic has been chosen, what needs to be determined next?**

   A. General purpose

   B. Audience relevance

   C. Specific purpose

   D. Central idea

5. **Which strategy is useful for maintaining audience engagement during a speech?**

   A. Reading from notes without eye contact

   B. Maintaining a monotone voice

   C. Varying vocal pitch and pace

   D. Using complex jargon

6. **Which of the following is an example of a specific purpose statement for a speech about the U.S. Supreme Court?**

   A. To teach the audience about the Supreme Court

   B. To help the audience understand an idea or concept

   C. The most significant influence on the Supreme Court is the Chief Justice

   D. Understanding how the Supreme Court functions is important for all citizens

7. **What term describes the use of emotions like love, hate, or prejudice to elicit a response from an audience?**

   A. Egocentrism

   B. Regionalism

   C. Evaluative listening

   D. Emotional appeal

8. **Bias in speech evaluation often occurs for which of the following reasons?**

   A. Attempt to gain power

   B. Knowledge of rhetoric

   C. Cognitive dissonance

   D. Inability to listen actively

9. **Which type of reasoning is primarily based on drawing a conclusion from specific instances?**

   A. Deductive reasoning

   B. Inductive reasoning

   C. Formal reasoning

   D. Empirical reasoning

10. **What is the primary difference between research material found on the Web and research material found in a publication?**

    A. Published works are written by well-known authors and experts.

    B. Web-based materials are evaluated for accuracy by the public.

    C. Published works are reviewed for reliability by editors and experts.

    D. Web-based materials are sponsored by public-interest groups.

Answers

1. D
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. A
7. D
8. A
9. B
10. C

Explanations

1. An example presented in the form of a story is known as which of the following?

A. Presentation aid

B. Explanation

C. Illustration

D. Narration

When an example is presented in the form of a story, it is referred to as narration. Narration involves telling a story that illustrates a particular point or theme, often engaging an audience by making the material relatable and vivid. This storytelling technique allows speakers to convey complex ideas in a more understandable way, making the message more memorable for listeners. Narration can also create an emotional connection, which helps illustrate the speaker's message more powerfully than abstract explanations or statistics might. By moving through the sequence of events in a story, the speaker can provide a context that enhances the audience's comprehension. This element of storytelling makes narration a compelling choice in public speaking, effectively drawing the audience into the scenario being described. While presentation aids, explanations, and illustrations also serve important functions in communication, they do not specifically entail the storytelling aspect that is inherent to narration. Presentation aids typically include visual elements that assist in conveying information. Explanations are direct clarifications of concepts, while illustrations usually refer to examples or analogies that support a point, without necessarily being framed as a story.

2. Which of the following often helps speakers relieve excess energy and apprehension during a speech?

A. Practicing and preparing in advance

B. Making appropriate gestures and bodily movements

C. Taking slow, deep breaths before speaking

D. Making eye contact with friends in the audience

The correct choice emphasizes that making appropriate gestures and bodily movements can help speakers manage excess energy and alleviate feelings of apprehension. Engaging in physical movement allows speakers to express themselves more fully and helps to channel nervous energy into a more dynamic and engaging presentation. By incorporating gestures, speakers can convey their ideas with greater clarity and enthusiasm, which may also distract them from their anxiety. Physical movement is a crucial component of effective public speaking; it not only enhances the message being delivered but also fosters a more comfortable interaction between the speaker and the audience. Gestures can create a connection with the audience, reinforcing the speaker's points and making the expression of ideas more impactful. Other strategies, such as practicing in advance, taking deep breaths, or making eye contact, undoubtedly contribute to building confidence and easing nerves, but it is the physical expression through gestures and body movements that can actively redirect a speaker's excess energy into a more productive and engaging performance.

3. Complimenting the audience, using personal examples, and using specific names of audience members are ways to develop which of the following during a speech?

A. Clarity

B. Credibility

C. Immediacy

D. Vividness

Fostering immediacy in a speech refers to creating a sense of connection and engagement between the speaker and the audience. Complimenting the audience is an effective way to make them feel valued and appreciated, which can enhance their receptiveness to the message. When a speaker shares personal examples, it can further establish a bond by relating personal experiences to the audience's own lives, making the interaction feel more personal and intimate. Additionally, using specific names of audience members personalizes the experience, encouraging individuals to feel directly addressed and involved in the presentation. These strategies work collectively to make the audience feel more present and connected to the speaker, thereby increasing the overall impact and involvement in the speech. This sense of immediacy can result in a more engaging and interactive experience, leading to a stronger connection between the speaker and the audience. Creating immediacy significantly contributes to the effectiveness of the communication process in public speaking.

4. Once a speech topic has been chosen, what needs to be determined next?

A. General purpose

B. Audience relevance

C. Specific purpose

D. Central idea

Once a speech topic has been chosen, determining the general purpose is crucial because it establishes the overall aim of the speech. The general purpose outlines whether the speaker intends to inform, persuade, entertain, or motivate the audience. This foundational step guides the direction of the speech and helps to shape its content and style.   By clarifying the general purpose, the speaker can tailor their message to achieve the desired effect on the audience. Knowing whether the goal is to educate, influence, or entertain informs the choice of language, tone, and supporting materials, making this step essential in effective speech preparation.   Other aspects, like audience relevance, specific purpose, and central idea, while all significant, come after the general purpose has been established. They require a clearer understanding of what the speech aims to achieve before delving deeper into specifics.

5. Which strategy is useful for maintaining audience engagement during a speech?

A. Reading from notes without eye contact

B. Maintaining a monotone voice

C. Varying vocal pitch and pace

D. Using complex jargon

Varying vocal pitch and pace is a highly effective strategy for maintaining audience engagement during a speech. This technique helps to add emphasis to key points, create a dynamic listening experience, and hold the audience's attention. When a speaker uses variations in pitch and speed, it conveys enthusiasm and passion for the topic, making the delivery more compelling and stimulating for the audience. Engaging speakers often modulate their vocal delivery to match the emotional tone of their message, which can create connections with the audience and enhance understanding. This approach not only prevents monotony but also assists in conveying nuances, thus making the content more memorable and impactful for the listeners. In contrast, reading from notes without eye contact, maintaining a monotone voice, or using complex jargon can detract from audience engagement, as these methods can lead to disconnection, confusion, or boredom among listeners.

6. Which of the following is an example of a specific purpose statement for a speech about the U.S. Supreme Court?

A. To teach the audience about the Supreme Court

B. To help the audience understand an idea or concept

C. The most significant influence on the Supreme Court is the Chief Justice

D. Understanding how the Supreme Court functions is important for all citizens

The option that best represents a specific purpose statement for a speech about the U.S. Supreme Court is the one that clearly defines a specific goal the speaker aims to achieve during the presentation. In this case, stating "To teach the audience about the Supreme Court" communicates a clear educational intention focused on delivering informative content about the institution itself. This statement sets a distinct direction for the speech, ensuring that the audience knows the aim is to provide knowledge, likely covering aspects such as its history, structure, function, or role in the judiciary. A specific purpose statement should be concise and targeted, as it serves to guide both the speaker's preparation and the audience's expectations. The other options may encompass elements related to understanding or discussing the Supreme Court, but they lack the definitive educational purpose that clearly outlines what the speech will convey. For instance, expressing an idea, influence, or importance does not specify the learning objective as effectively as the chosen answer.

7. What term describes the use of emotions like love, hate, or prejudice to elicit a response from an audience?

A. Egocentrism

B. Regionalism

C. Evaluative listening

D. Emotional appeal

The term that describes the use of emotions such as love, hate, or prejudice to elicit a response from an audience is emotional appeal. This persuasive technique focuses on affecting the audience's feelings rather than relying solely on logical arguments or factual evidence. By tapping into the audience's emotions, a speaker can inspire them to take action, align with their point of view, or strengthen their connection to the topic being discussed. Emotional appeal can be particularly effective because it resonates at a personal level, making the message more memorable and impactful. When a speaker effectively harnesses emotions, they can create a powerful response that reinforces their message and engages the audience more deeply. This approach is distinct from other options. For instance, egocentrism refers to a focus on oneself, which can hinder effective communication. Regionalism is related to cultural or geographical influences in language or expression, and evaluative listening involves critically assessing information rather than responding to emotional prompts. Thus, emotional appeal is the most relevant term for the use of emotions to engage an audience.

8. Bias in speech evaluation often occurs for which of the following reasons?

A. Attempt to gain power

B. Knowledge of rhetoric

C. Cognitive dissonance

D. Inability to listen actively

Bias in speech evaluation can indeed be influenced by the attempt to gain power. This often occurs when the evaluator has a vested interest in the outcome of the evaluation or in the position of the speaker. For example, an evaluator may emphasize certain aspects of a speaker's performance to either support their own agenda or undermine the speaker's credibility. This power dynamic skews the evaluation process, leading to a biased assessment that does not accurately reflect the speaker's abilities or message. When evaluating speeches, it's essential to recognize the potential for power plays that can affect objectivity. Evaluators must strive to examine speeches based on set criteria and standards rather than personal gain or prejudice. By acknowledging this bias, evaluators can work toward providing more constructive and fair feedback, focusing on the content and delivery of the speech rather than their own interests.

9. Which type of reasoning is primarily based on drawing a conclusion from specific instances?

A. Deductive reasoning

B. Inductive reasoning

C. Formal reasoning

D. Empirical reasoning

Inductive reasoning is the correct answer because it involves drawing general conclusions based on specific examples or instances. In this type of reasoning, one starts with particular observations or cases and uses them to infer broader principles or rules. For example, if several swans observed are white, one might conclude that all swans are white. Inductive reasoning is inherently probabilistic, meaning that it leads to conclusions that are likely, but not necessarily guaranteed to be true. This approach contrasts with deductive reasoning, which starts with general premises and derives specific conclusions that must logically follow from those premises. Formal reasoning typically refers to structured logical processes, often involving formal logic systems, while empirical reasoning leans more towards deriving knowledge based on observation and experiment. Inductive reasoning stands out in its focus on making generalizations from specific observations, making it a fundamental method in fields like science and everyday reasoning.

10. What is the primary difference between research material found on the Web and research material found in a publication?

A. Published works are written by well-known authors and experts.

B. Web-based materials are evaluated for accuracy by the public.

C. Published works are reviewed for reliability by editors and experts.

D. Web-based materials are sponsored by public-interest groups.

The primary distinction between research material found on the Web and that found in a publication lies in the rigorous review process that published works typically undergo. Published works, such as academic journal articles, books, and other professional publications, are generally subject to peer review or editorial scrutiny before they are made available to the public. This process involves experts evaluating the quality, validity, and reliability of the content, ensuring that it meets established standards of scholarship and accuracy. In contrast, materials on the Web can vary widely in terms of quality and reliability. While some websites strive to provide accurate information, many do not undergo any formal assessment, which can lead to misinformation or poorly substantiated claims. This inherent lack of accountability is a critical factor that distinguishes web content from that found in reputable publications. Hence, the thorough review process of published works is what supports their credibility and reliability, making option C the correct choice.