



The Art of Public Speaking Missed by Generation Z

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Abstract: Public speaking skills are still not fully possessed by students. This reluctance to appear in public is due to low self-confidence and a lack of public speaking skills. This inability causes what should be effective communication to become degraded. Even in public, communication misunderstandings often occur. This misunderstanding was documented and spread across the internet. As a service team, we took the initiative to conduct a public speaking activity at SMA 4 Pasundan Bandung. The Community Service activity aims to improve students' public speaking skills, enhance their ability to express ideas or opinions, boost their learning motivation, and increase their self-confidence. Public speaking skills are still not fully possessed by students. Therefore, by carrying out this service activity, we hope that the output from the students of SMA 4 Pasundan Bandung will be able to improve their good communication skills and increase their learning motivation and self-confidence, both in the classroom, within the school environment, outside the surrounding environment, and in their future work environment.

Keywords: Communication, Public Speaking, Students, Training, Vocal Pronunciation.

Introduction

Communication is a fundamental need for everyone, whether in the family, community, or workplace (Sumiati, 2023). To be able to communicate with others, language is needed as a medium. Language as a tool for communication allows two or more individuals to express various ideas, meanings, feelings, and experiences (Hartini & Chumaeson, 2021). Language plays a very important role in life. In today's global era, communication skills in the form of public speaking, or more commonly known as public speaking skills, are one of the essential and must-have skills (Amalia et al., 2022; Fajriah & Ningsih, 2024; Suherdiana, 2008).

The ability to speak in public, which we know as public speaking skills, needs to be continuously developed and practiced (Andriani & Srisadono, 2017). If not, it can lead to a permanent fear of public speaking. To gain confidence when speaking in front of an audience, the way is to practice; there is no instant way to acquire public speaking skills (Hamzah et al., 2022). According to Sirait (2008), public speaking is defined as the art that combines all the knowledge and abilities we

possess. Being confident in public means being ready to deliver a message to people from different backgrounds. As an art, the skill of speaking is an elegant, expressive, and creative art skill (Effend, 2019).

The current era of globalization has added challenges for young people, especially high school students, as they enter the new world, including directly into the academic and professional spheres. Both public speaking and the world of work are inseparable from public speaking skills (Juwita, 2021). Especially in the digital age, we need to improve our ability to balance modernity with character education. In this digital age, public speaking skills are essential in almost every profession, as effective speakers must be able to present themselves in any situation (Ginting et al., 2025; Salsabil, 2020). One of them is the need to improve the skills of students who will be entering college and the workforce at SMA 4 Pasundan Bandung. Therefore, based on the results of observations and interviews with relevant parties, the team found that public speaking skills among students at SMA 4 Pasundan Bandung are not yet optimal in supporting their ability to present internally and externally, particularly, so follow-up from the team is needed to conduct service at that location.

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The implementation of this public speaking service aims to enhance the knowledge of students at Pasundan 4 High School in Bandung. In this regard, we provide opportunities for students to participate in classroom activities that allow them to understand and apply information about public speaking techniques (Purba et al., 2023).

Method

This Community Service Activity (PKM) was conducted in person at SMA 4 Pasundan Bandung for 120 minutes. This activity was attended by 70 students.

The activity carried out was public speaking training. Training activities were conducted by inviting speakers to provide material and understanding of the need for the art of speaking for partners.

Result and Discussion

The PKM activity was held on Thursday, March 7, 2024. This community service was carried out at Pasundan 4 High School in Bandung. The activity began with the opening of the PKM program at the school, attended by the principal of SMA Pasundan 4, Mr. Ali, S.Pd., M.Pd., teachers, participating students, and the PKM implementation lecturer team. Here is the documentation:



Figure 1. The Opening Event of the PKM as a Public Speaking Training Session.

This service activity was carried out to assist Pasundan 4 Bandung High School in overcoming the problems present at the school, one of which is related to public speaking. Therefore, the service team took the initiative to provide public speaking training to the students of Pasundan 4 Bandung High School. After the opening ceremony was finished, the event continued with a public speaking session. The Public Speaking material was delivered by Dr. Imas Sumiati, M.Si. In this session, the speaker discussed the definition of public speaking, the goals of public speaking, successful strategies in public speaking, tips for good and effective

speaking, the key to communication in public speaking, and steps that can be taken to overcome nervousness when giving a public speech. The speaker also provided an overview of future jobs that require Public Speaking skills. Therefore, participants are motivated to learn public speaking diligently so that they can compete in the workforce later on.



Figure 2. Public Speaking Material Presentation

In addition to public speaking material, this training also included a presentation on vocal pronunciation for public speaking, delivered by Mr. Dr. Dedi Sulaeman, S.S., M.Hum. During this session, the speaker stated that in public speaking, it is necessary to regulate one's voice so that the resulting sound can be heard clearly, beautifully, accurately, and with soul, using proper breathing to make communication effective. Good vowel pronunciation can be achieved by paying attention to the following:

1. Articulation. Articulation is the method of pronouncing/uttering words that occurs through changes in the vocal tract to produce speech sounds.
2. Accentuation. Accentuation means giving emphasis to a syllable or word; prioritizing; or emphasizing.
3. Pronunciation. Correct pronunciation is the complete delivery of all syllable sounds or a single word.



Figure 3. Material Presentation on Vowel Pronunciation

After the material presentation session, the activity continued with a discussion with teachers and students. Discussion methods can provide a stimulus for students to be brave enough to express what's on their minds. In this discussion session, the speaker will

answer questions from the students. The discussion session will be conducted using a question-and-answer method, where students will be given the opportunity to ask questions related to the material that is the focus of the discussion session, namely, how to overcome fear when speaking in public. Based on the event that took place, the students of Pasundan 4 High School Bandung tried to muster their courage by asking questions to the speaker, even though their voices trembled when speaking, they lost focus, and so on. However, the students were finally able to control themselves, so the sentences they spoke became more organized (Yuniasih et al., 2023, 2024).

From that explanation, it can be concluded that public speaking activities are effective in improving vocal skills. The material presented by Bapak Dr. Dedi Sulaeman, S.S., M.Hum., focuses more on the importance of public speaking skills in various contexts, such as public speaking, presentations, and effective communication. Additionally, as explained by Bapak Dr. Dedi Sulaeman, S.S., M.Hum., public speaking activities will also cover the techniques needed to improve public speaking skills, such as recognizing the audience, choosing appropriate topics, and practicing breathing techniques.



Figure 4. Public Speaking Discussion and Practice Session

When they first tried to present in front of the class, most of the students from Pasundan 4 High School in Bandung spoke with a lack of confidence. However, most of the students from Pasundan 4 High School expressed a desire to be brave and speak loudly, clearly, and confidently.

To address this issue, the speaker took a contextual approach with the students of Pasundan 4 High School in Bandung, such as lighting the atmosphere in the classroom by occasionally joking with the students to make it seem less formal. As a result, the students became more confident in speaking loudly and clearly and were not hesitant to express themselves in their school environment (Adam & Syastra, 2015; Novita & Munawir, 2022; Pandean et al., 2025).

The impact of this service activity is that students from SMA 4 Pasundan Bandung can improve their

communication skills, increase their learning motivation, and boost their self-confidence, both in the classroom, within the school environment, outside the surrounding environment, and in their future work environment.

Conclusion

Public speaking training conducted at SMA 4 Pasundan Bandung can help improve students' lack of motivation and self-confidence in classroom activities. Ideally, public speaking training should be conducted in a relaxed atmosphere to reduce anxiety and self-doubt among students of Pasundan 4 High School in Bandung. In public speaking techniques, it is generally done using formal language, but in this service activity, it is more focused on the goal of public speaking training, which is to first give them courage, and then it will be adjusted to formal language. Because if they are forced to use formal language first, they will not feel comfortable and will have difficulty expressing themselves. Furthermore, this activity provides an opportunity for students of Pasundan 4 High School Bandung to directly practice the material that has been taught. The students' involvement in this Public Speaking learning process can ultimately increase their confidence in speaking and expressing their opinions, and boost their motivation to learn.

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