

Spring 2017

Dear Prospective Speaking Fellow Candidate:

Before you fill out the application that follows, we'd like to clarify what it means to be a part of the Speaking Fellows Program.

Speaking Fellows are a team of specially selected and trained Barnard students who work with other students on their presentation and class discussion skills. Speaking Fellows are "attached" to courses across the disciplines for which they create and run customized workshops of up to eight students. They also staff the Speaking Center for one hour per week throughout the semester, and meet as a group every week for continued training and workshop development. We are of course looking for effective public speakers, but equally crucial is your ability to connect with other people, and a genuine wish to help others succeed. Candidates should have excellent leadership, team-building, and interpersonal skills, as Speaking Fellows work highly collaboratively among themselves, as well as with students in workshops and one-on-one sessions. We encourage students of all majors to apply.

This is an intense program that requires your full commitment. Speaking Fellows are required to take a semester-long, 3-credit training course in the Fall called "Rhetorical Choices: The Theory and Practice of Public Speaking," co-taught by Pam Cobrin (Director, Writing and Speaking Programs) and Daniela Kempf (Manager, Speaking Program); dedicate a minimum of 70 hours per semester to the program after completing the training course; and commit to working for at least three semesters, one of those being the semester directly following the training course. If you cannot make this commitment, please do not apply to the program.

Once training is completed successfully, Speaking Fellows receive a stipend of \$980 per semester.

A word about the training course: Speaking Fellows learn how to work with students on their physical delivery, but equally important is their ability to work with students on their ideas and critical thinking skills. These themes are reflected in the training course, which combines the study of theoretical texts with hands-on training in peer-to-peer coaching. Covering this much ground in one semester is intense (which does not mean we don't laugh a lot). Students meet three times per week for seminar discussions, workshops, and a lab component; write two essays; learn how to run Speaking Fellows workshops and one-on-one sessions; prepare speeches; and participate in formal debates regularly. There is a great deal of theory-heavy reading involved: about what forms of speaking are valued across institutions and communities, and how gender, race, and ethnicity intersect with rhetorical expression and reception.

Participating in this program provides an opportunity to be a part of -- and make a contribution to -- a very new and very exciting realm of peer-to-peer learning in academia. If you think it's for you, we look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely yours,

Pam Cobrin
Director, Writing and Speaking Programs

Daniela Kempf
Manager, Speaking Program

SPEAKING FELLOW APPLICATION

Deadline: Friday, March 3rd at 5:00pm

Please either *staple or securely paperclip a hard copy* of your application and deliver to Katy Lasell (Program Coordinator) in 222 Barnard Hall by the above deadline.

Name:

Class:

Email:

Phone:

Projected Major:

Name of faculty member who is providing a reference:

*(You must provide at least one reference from a professor with whom you have taken a seminar. **Please provide them with the reference form at the end of this document.**)*

1. Please list the courses you have taken at Barnard/Columbia and the grades you received.

2. Please list your work and/or volunteer experience, including the dates (or attach a resume).

3. Please describe your prior experience in tutoring or peer counseling.

SPEAKING FELLOW APPLICATION: *Supplementary Materials*

1. In a page or so, please tell us why you would like to be a Speaking Fellow, how you yourself go about preparing for class discussions and/or presentations, and how that might relate to your interest in helping others with their speaking skills. What do you see as the biggest speaking issue that students face at Barnard? How do you take responsibility for these issues in class? Use specific examples (without using students' or professors' names).
2. We encourage you to begin preparing a 3-4 minute presentation on a topic from one of your current academic classes. If you are invited back for an interview, you will be asked to give this presentation to the Program Director, Manager, Coordinator, and the Speaking Fellows. Choose a topic you are passionate about, have questions about, or are otherwise fascinated, bothered, confounded, or excited by. You do not need to be an expert on this topic, but rather, engaged with it in some meaningful way.

Present your material in the format you feel would be most effective. This might mean that you give a standard, lecture-style presentation; facilitate a discussion or activity; or do a creative combination of the three (or any other format you might imagine). A visual aid is not required or expected, but a whiteboard will be available, and you may bring in a handout or other non-electronic visual aid if you like (please do not bring in a PowerPoint, Prezi, or anything that requires A/V equipment). Keep in mind that you will be presenting to an audience who may not be familiar with your course, but who is eager to learn something meaningful from you. Please do not bring a performance piece in which you speak in character; we are not interested in seeing you perform, but rather teach and connect.

Applicants whom we wish to interview will be listed outside of 222 Barnard Hall on Friday, March 10th at 5:00pm. If your name is listed, please sign up for an interview.

We strongly encourage you to sign up for a **Speaking Fellow one-on-one session or workshop** if you have not done so yet, especially if you are selected for the interview.

You can sign up here: <https://speaking.mywconline.com/>.

