

Preface  
for  
Public Speaking: An Idea Focus  
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### Note to Teachers

This text is written as if time to complete the course is unlimited. Clearly, if you use this text, you will want to assign readings in an order to accommodate speaking and/or other assignments. I may be able to help in this regard. If you adopt this text, I might be able to help with other items as well.

In any regards, I will appreciate any comments, criticism, and/or suggestions you may have. It remains a work in progress as far as I'm concerned. That's an advantage of the internet: revisions aren't as expensive. Please write to me at [clifton\\_adams@yahoo.com](mailto:clifton_adams@yahoo.com).

### Acknowledgements

At its core, this text reflects what I was taught about public speaking starting 60 years ago. So, many teachers deserve credit. I will name only a few. Professor Annebel Hagood, either directly or indirectly, contributed heavily. That contribution would include Linda Mason's and Mary John Smith's coaching. They all helped me to understand better reasoning and extemporaneous speaking. Dr. Clevenger, as he did with everyone, worked intensely with me. He was a master at speaking from quickly prepared notes as well as insightful about audiences. Tom King, who supervised my early teaching, taught me much about structuring messages for extemporaneous delivery.

Of course, I've received help from so many during the 20 plus years that I have been writing this book. Top of that list is Sara who has stayed married to me since 1970. Moreover, she has contributed to my understanding of communication and helped, often, with my writing. Over the years, Jim Floyd and I have shared ideas, especially on reasoning. These discussions are reflected in this book. Then, when I had put this project on a shelf where it may have never been removed, Sam Cox said he would help me to write it. From that renewed partnership came two presentations and a journal article. In those we first presented the pyramids of meaning, encapsulators of behavior, and I:sm<sub>3</sub>. Earlier we, together, had coined the term, reasoned communication. I regret that other obligations pulled Sam from this main project. I do appreciate his listening and watching as I talked about the ideas here presented and for his contributions of examples, particularly for Chapter 18.