



PUBLIC SPEAKING ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO DEVELOP THE INTERESTS AND TALENTS OF STUDENTS OF THE INDONESIAN ISLAMIC STUDENT MOVEMENT, MAJAPAHIT ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY.

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ARTICLE INFO:

Article history:

Received 20 December
Received in revised form
24 December 2024
Accepted 1 January 2025
Available online 10 January
2025

Keywords:

Public Speaking, Mentoring,
Training, Students, PMII

Abstract

Public Speaking Training is a series of activities designed to improve one's ability to speak in public. This training is very important, especially for students, because good speaking skills will be very useful in various aspects of life, such as presenting assignments, attending seminars, or even having a career. However, many of the current Zero generation have a low level of self-confidence so they need motivation to be active in speaking, conveying aspirations, organising, especially students as the nation's successors. In this mentoring and public speaking training activity, several methods are used, namely needs mapping, material preparation, training implementation, evaluation. The result of this service is that PMII students at Majapahit Islamic University experience an increase in self-confidence, an increase in delivering messages, an increase in mastering the audience and an increase in soft skills that are more vocal and dare to express their opinions.

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1. Introduction

Public speaking skills are one of the most important competencies for students, especially for those who are active in student organisations such as PMII. Pergerakan Mahasiswa Islam Indonesia. This is the largest student organisation in Indonesia based on Ahlussunnah wal Jama'ah (Aswaja) Islam. PMII was born from the womb of the largest Islamic social organisation in Indonesia, Nahdlatul Ulama (NU). of course, this organisation was formed to cadre students as the milestone of the nation's progress so that a keahlilan and ability in public is needed. The

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ability to speak in public is not only useful for conveying ideas, but also for increasing self-confidence and adaptability.

Majapahit Islamic University, as an educational institution that upholds Islamic values and intellectuality, seeks to equip students with various skills that are relevant to the world of work, especially as times are increasingly advanced so that students are required to be able to face future developments that are all digital (Hajar Nurma Wachidah, 2023). One of the efforts made is by providing *public speaking* assistance to PMII members. This programme aims to (1) improve the public speaking skills of PMII students. (2) Increase students' confidence in expressing their opinions. (3) Develop students' leadership potential. (4) Prepare students to become agents of change in society. Lucas, S. E., & Katz, M. J. (2015).

The background of why many students feel less confident or have difficulty in public speaking is from first, **Psychological Factors** where students feel fear of negative judgement from others is often a major barrier. lack of *confidence* because they feel unable or unfit to speak in public. Often students also feel they have to be perfectionistic where the desire to always look perfect can cause excessive pressure. Second, **Environmental factors, namely** lack of opportunity to practice or the student does not have many opportunities to practice public speaking. There can also be a lack of support from the surrounding environment, such as family, friends, or lecturers. And what we often encounter is that students do not have an inadequate role model: Not having a figure who can be used as an example in public speaking. Third, **educational factor** is also the background of students due to the lack of formal training on public speaking at school or university. The reality is that students are more focused on academic material so that they ignore soft skills such as *public speaking*.

From the above background, the lecturer conducted a special mentoring and public speaking training for PMII students at Majapahit Islamic University which aims to prepare the golden generation of 2045 as the ideals of the Indonesian nation. In the mentoring, material is given about good and professional public speaking techniques and tips. Thus the results of the training and mentoring resulted in this article in order to provide benefits for all parties.

2. Methods

The methodology used in public speaking assistance in order to develop the interests and talents of Indonesian Islamic Student Movement students at Majapahit Islamic University is carried out through several stages, namely:

- **Needs mapping:** Conducting an initial survey to find out the level of public speaking skills of PMII students at Majapahit Islamic University.

- **Preparation of materials:** where lecturers compile training materials tailored to the needs of students, including speaking techniques, body language, overcoming nervousness, and speech structure
- **Implementation of training:** Carry out face-to-face or *online* training using lecture, discussion, and simulation methods with the keynote speaker, namely Public Speaking Assistance in Order to Develop the Interests and Talents of Students of Pergerakan Mahasiswa Islam Indonesia, Majapahit Islamic University.
- **Evaluation:** Evaluate the results of the training to see how far the ability of PMII students of Majapahit Islamic University has improved.

3. Result and Discussion

A person's success in speaking seems to be influenced by a supportive situation or atmosphere so that the person concerned can feel comfortable and free to express opinions which become an important process for the achievement of an individual's speaking competence. In addition to cognitive factors and language intelligence, affective factors have become very influential factors in achieving success in speaking English. Self-concept, self-perception, perspective in seeing the surrounding conditions and how to respond in a learning context become important elements. (Datu, 2017) Public speaking involves not only the words spoken by the speaker, but also facial expressions, body language and other non-verbal elements that can influence the way a message is conveyed. Therefore, in the definition of public speaking, it is important to understand that this communication is not just about what is said, but also how the message is delivered as a whole

The definition of public speaking includes various elements that characterise the activity of oral communication between a speaker and an audience. Some prominent references provide an in-depth understanding of the meaning of public speaking: a. "Public speaking: Strategies for Success" by David Zarefsky (2018): According to Zarefsky, public speaking is a process of delivering an oral message with the purpose of influencing, convincing, or entertaining an audience. He emphasises that public speaking involves interaction between the speaker and the audience, involving both verbal and non-verbal expressions. b. "The Art of Public speaking" by Stephen E. Lucas (2019): Lucas states that public speaking is the art of conveying information, ideas, or messages to an audience orally. He discusses that success in public speaking involves

understanding the needs of the audience, establishing credibility, and crafting a clear message. (Lucas, S. E., & Katz, M. J. (2015).

In the mentoring and training as the best and professional speaker for PMII students of Mjapahit Islamic University, material on the basics of public speaking is given which aims to form a foundation for someone to become an effective speaker. A deep understanding of these basic concepts helps speakers to deliver messages more effectively and influence the audience. Based on references such as "Public Speaking: Strategies for Success" by David Zarefsky (2018), some of the basics of public speaking include

1. *Audience Analysis*, where the lecturer as the *keynote speaker* here first provides insight to students who have good, moderate and poor speaking skills by understanding the audience first with whom we speak. This is a crucial step in public speaking that requires a deep understanding of who will be the audience so that the material presented is in line with the audience's ability.
2. An effective presentation structure is the foundation for success in *public speaking*. David Zarefsky (2018) discusses the key elements of a good presentation structure. Firstly, an introduction that grabs the audience's attention is key to maintaining interest and engaging the listener from the start.
3. Effective Language Use Good and effective language use is a key element in public speaking. David Zarefsky (2018) discusses that speakers need to understand the power of words and how they can influence the audience. In essence, a speaker must first know who will be faced when he speaks so that the material is conveyed properly to the audience. PMII UNIM students were also asked to create interesting themes for public speaking training. They are enthusiastic and can also actualise themselves with all out.
4. Good time management is an essential skill in public speaking. This reference emphasises that speakers need to understand the appropriate duration for each part of the presentation to maintain balance and provide focus on key points. Efficient time management helps avoid presentations that are too long or too short. Speakers need to create a clear time plan, allocating time for the introduction, the body of the presentation, questions from the audience, and the conclusion. This plan helps keep the presentation organised and easy to follow for the audience. In this mentoring and training agenda, PMII UNIM students were given 5 minutes to practice, 10 minutes to come forward as speakers, and 5 minutes of comments from the keynote speaker. This aims to make students more confident and know where their mistakes are and what needs to be improved when they become speakers.

5. The use of body language includes facial expressions, hand gestures, and posture, all of which can help convey messages more powerfully. PMII students have begun to dare to appear confidently after the training and mentoring.

4. Discussion

The results of this mentoring and public speaking training showed a significant improvement in the public speaking skills of PMII students at Majapahit Islamic University. This can be seen from:

- Increased self-confidence: Students have become more courageous to speak in public and express their opinions. Where students have dared to express the opening by using anecdotes or short stories which is an effective strategy to attract the audience's attention and bring them emotionally closer to the presentation topic. Starting with a story, the speaker creates a personal connection with the audience and makes the presentation material more relevant.
- Improved message delivery skills: Students were able to deliver the message effectively and interestingly. They utilised more case studies in their presentations, giving a practical and concrete dimension to the topic. By presenting a real case, the speaker not only presents facts, but also gives an example of the application of the concept or idea proposed. (Maxwell, J. C. (2019).
- Improved stage presence: Students are more confident in mastering the situation and managing their speaking time. This time integrating personal experiences or life stories of others in the presentation can give a personal and human touch to the topic discussed. This not only relates facts to everyday reality, but also creates emotional resonance among the audience. (Manning, J., & Curtis, K. (2017)
- Improved ability to interact with the audience: Students were able to build a good rapport with the audience and answer questions well. An interesting discussion occurs when the speaker can convey the theme well. The message conveyed can be understood by the audience so that there is a deeper sharing of knowledge. (Miller, K., & Harrington, K. V. (2019). Thus, this activity is very useful for students. the need for soft skills expertise for the golden generation in building character and critical thinking this activity is very useful for students.

Figure 1. Mentoring and Public Speaking Training by Keynote Speaker



Some of the factors that can influence the success of this mentoring programme and Public Speaking Training by Keynote Speaker include:

- Quality of training materials: The material presented by the keynote speaker was relevant and interesting so as to motivate students to learn and communicate effectively.
- Varied training methods: The use of these training methods with a variety of techniques as a varied speaker can make the training more interactive and enjoyable.
- Support from the PMII board of Majapahit Islamic University motivated members to attend the training.
- The commitment of participants from all study programmes to attend the training and practice independently is crucial to the success of the programme.

5. Conclusion

Public speaking assistance is a very useful programme for PMII students. This programme not only improves public speaking skills, but also has a positive impact on students' overall self-development. This mentoring programme should still be held on an ongoing basis by conducting regular training: Public speaking training needs to be conducted regularly to maintain and improve students' abilities. (2) Creating a mentoring programme: Provide opportunities for students who are already proficient to become mentors for students who are still beginners. (3) Organise public speaking competitions: Through competitions, students can hone their skills and gain valuable experience.

6. Acknowledgements

Our thanks to the students who participated in the mentoring agenda and public speaking training to spur the interests and talents of PMII students at Majapahit Islamic University.

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