



Sample Process Speech

Tablature

by John Mullhauser⁴

Read the speech adaptation plan, outline, and a transcript of the speech on guitar tablature given by John Mullhauser in an introductory speaking course. Use your Challenge of Effective Speaking CD-ROM to watch a video clip of John presenting part of his speech in class. Click on the Speech Interactive icon in the menu at left, then click on Speech Menu in the menu bar at the top of the screen. Select “Process Speech: Tablature” to watch the video (it takes a minute for the video to load).

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You can identify some of the strengths of John's speech by using your CD-ROM to prepare an evaluation checklist and an analysis. You can then compare your answers to those of the authors. To complete the checklist electronically, click on Evaluation in the menu bar at the top of the screen. To prepare your feedback electronically, click on Analysis in the menu bar. To compare your answers to those provided by the authors, click the "Done" button.



Adaptation Plan

Speaking directly to the audience: Throughout the speech I will talk directly to the audience. I will use personal pronouns, and I will go slowly so that they will be able to follow my directions.

Building credibility: From the start I will show how I have mastered tablature. Then by explaining tablature carefully the audience will see that I know what I'm talking about.

Getting and maintaining interest: I'll start the speech with a startling statement and then show that everyone in class can learn to do what I can do. I believe that as the class starts to understand, they will become even more interested.

Facilitating understanding: I will take the class through each step slowly and carefully. By using visual aids (the guitar itself and an example of tablature) to show the class the notes on paper and then to show where to pluck the strings, class members should be able to see themselves playing along with me. Although they may be doubtful at first, as we go along, they will come to understand how simple the process is.

Increasing retention: Again, use of visual aids should help retention. And I will also use repetition to make sure that they can follow.

Speech Outline

SPECIFIC SPEECH GOAL: I want my audience to understand how to use the tablature notation to play guitar chords.

INTRODUCTION

- I. If someone asked me to play a song on the guitar by almost any artist, I could.
- II. I'm not a prodigy, but I do have a trick that allows me to play guitar music.
- III. Today I want to share with you this trick called tablature.

THESIS STATEMENT: The three steps that will enable audience members to utilize tablature are getting a basic understanding of the guitar, learning tablature notation, and applying notation to the playing.

BODY

- I. The first step for utilizing tablature is holding the guitar.
 - A. Hold the guitar on your right quad while in a sitting position.
 - B. Use your hands correctly.
 1. Your right hand holds the pick between your thumb and index finger.
 2. Your left hand lies along the neck of the guitar.
 - C. Each of the metal bars on the neck divides the guitar into frets.
 - D. The strings are plucked to play the guitar.
 1. There are six strings on a standard guitar.
 2. The notes of each string from lowest to highest are E, A, D, G, B, E.

(Now that you have a basic understanding of holding the guitar, let's move on to the next step.)

- II. The second step for utilizing tablature is to grasp tablature notation.
 - A. Tablature is just a picture of the guitar from the player's viewpoint.
 - B. Each line represents a string on the guitar verbatim.
 1. The first line represents the high E, the highest string on the guitar.
 2. The last line represents the low E, the lowest string on the guitar.

- C. The numbers on the lines of the tablature represent which string and which fret are to be played.
- D. Groups of notes are separated.
 1. A line separates the notes to be played into groups.
 2. This enables you to learn one part at a time.

(Now that you understand the basics of the guitar and tablature, it is time to move to the third step.)

- III. The third step for utilizing tablature is to apply tablature to playing the guitar by playing notes.
 - A. To demonstrate how tablature works, I will play this guitar.
 - B. As I play, notice how each tablature notation identifies a note on the guitar.

CONCLUSION

Now that you know the basics of the guitar, understand the nature of tablature, and know how to use tablature to play the notes, you are ready to play nearly any song you choose.

SOURCES: Dowland, John. *Lute Songs of John Dowland*. Mineola, NY: Dover, 1997. Vogler, Leonard. *The Encyclopedia of Picture Chords*. Amsco Publishing, 1990. P. 6.

Speech and Analysis

Read the following aloud at least once. Then analyze it on the basis of the primary criteria in the checklist on page 000: Process Speech Evaluation Form. Although John used himself, his guitar, and a visual aid of tablature throughout the speech, you will see only a few snapshots in this written version.

Speech

If someone asked me to play nearly any song on the guitar I could. I could play songs by almost any artist—I could play Dave Matthews band, Phish, Metallica, Slayer, Negata, Spoon, Rick James, you name it, I could probably play it. I'm not a prodigy on the guitar, I'm not some kind of an evil genius or something, I just know the special trick that allows me to play nearly any tune. Um, today I'm going to share this trick with you, called tablature. There are three steps that can enable you to understand and utilize tablature.

The first step is a basic understanding of a guitar. The second step that will help you understand and use tablature is learning tablature notation. And the third step that will help you utilize tablature is applying tablature back to the guitar.

The first step that I want to look at is learning the basics of playing the guitar. This is a guitar. To properly hold the guitar, you place it on your right knee where it's ergonomically designed to fit. You place the pick in your right hand in between your thumb and your index finger. Your left hand placement will vary on the neck as to what you are playing. Each of these metal bars divides the guitar up into what are called frets. And on your standard guitar you're going to have six strings which the notes, respectively, are E, A, D, G, B, and E. Now that you have a basic understanding of a guitar, let's take a look at tablature notation.

The second step for understanding tablature is learning the notation. This is what tablature would look like. All it is is an exact copy of the guitar strings onto a piece of paper from a player's viewpoint. The first line on the tablature represents the highest string on the guitar—or the E string, the high E string. The last line on the guitar represents the lowest string on the guitar, or the low E string, and all the other ones respectively. The numbers 7 5 3 represent to play seventh fret, the fifth fret, and the third fret. And they also signify which string you're going to play on. For example, these are all on the D strings so you know to play on the D string. This one right here, these two 5s, mean you play the fifth fret on the G string, or the third highest string. The lines which break the tablature up have nothing to do with the song. All it does is

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Analysis

John begins with a startling statement.

Then he mentions the trick that allows a person to play nearly any tune—tablature.

He finishes his introduction with a preview of the three steps—a preview that serves as a transition to the body of the speech.

Here John states the first step.

Throughout the remainder of the speech he demonstrates the various steps.

During the first step he sits on the edge of the desk and shows the audience how to hold a guitar. Then he identifies the frets and the string.

Here he uses a transition to lead into the second step.

John presents his second main point clearly.

In this section, in addition to using his guitar, he uses a piece of paper with numbers that represent

the frets and lines that represent the strings.

Here again John uses a transition to lead into the third step.

John presents a clear statement of the third step.

In this section he goes slowly through the start of a song, clearly showing how anyone would know which string to pluck and where to pluck it by applying the tablature notations.

This section of the speech represents a true demonstration of tablature application.

As he goes along, everyone in class quickly recognizes the song he is playing.

In the conclusion, John summarizes the steps and assure us that we too can play the guitar by using tablature. ■

break the song down so that it is easier to learn—into smaller chunks. Now that you have a basic understanding of the guitar and you know something about tablature notation, let's take a look at applying tablature to playing the guitar.

The third step for utilizing tablature is applying your knowledge of tablature notation. To effectively show this, I'm going to take you through a song piece by piece and show you exactly how to do so. Right hear it says to play 7 5 3, and again it's on the third lowest string here—so you want to find the third lowest string, which is the D string right here.

Then you want to look for the first note is the 7th fret so [counting up] 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, so there's your note 7 5 3. Next it says play 5 7 7, again all on the D string. So, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5 7 7. Then it says 5 5 5 again on the D string. Then this is where it changes. You have a 7 on the D string. Then you go up higher one note, one string, to the G string and you play 5 5 5. So you start at the 7 and go up a string to the—and play the 5, so it's 7 5 5. So I'll play this all over again—I'm sure you know what song this is: 7 5 3 5 7 7 7 5 5 5 7 5 5 as easy as that and I'm sure everyone knows what song that was.

In conclusion, now that you know some basics of guitar, and you know how to read basic tablature notation, and you can apply it all back to the guitar, you guys are ready to go out and play nearly any song of your choosing. ■