

VANESSA A. FOWLER

Email: vfowler@berry.edu

Office Number: 706-233-4052

Education

Masters of Fine Arts, Forensics and Communication **May 2025**

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Thesis: Cultivating the Competitor: Advocacy, Competition and Education

Committee: Dr. Justin Rudnick (Advisor), Katie Brunner, Dr. Michelle McAlarnen

Bachelor of Arts in Communication **May 2022**

Berry College

Emphasis: Journalism Digital Storytelling

Minor: Psychology

Academic Appointments

Lecturer of Communication **May 2025 – Present**
Berry College

Assistant Director of Forensics **May 2025 – Present**
Berry College

Graduate Teaching Assistant **Aug 2022 – May 2025**
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Graduate Coaching Assistant **Aug 2022 – May 2025**
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Teaching Experience

COM 203: Rhetoric and Public Address

- Taught effective and comprehensive communication skills to equip students for their future courses, careers and communities.
- Emphasized the importance of conducting research, strategic organization and effective delivery for presentations
- Helped students create narratives through storytelling tactics related to public speaking to develop their voice

COMM 320: Advanced Forensics Practicum

- Advanced course for speech and debate team students.
- Developed and implemented comprehensive speech delivery strategies to enhance students' public speaking skills and confidence.
- Guided students in conducting comprehensive research and critically evaluating sources to support their claims.

COMM 220: Forensics Practicum

- Introductory course for new speech and debate team students.
- Developed activities for students to engage in public speaking.
- Held one on one meetings with students weekly in order to help them progress in their public speaking journey.

COMM 102: Public Speaking

- Taught the basics of public speaking, helping students in researching topics, formatting outlines and writing out their speeches.
- Developed activities for students to better tackle their speech anxieties.
- Held weekly meetings with the larger lecturer to better serve the students in the lab sections of the course.

COMM 102: Public Speaking (condensed online)

- Created a condensed public speaking course to fit into the second block of the summer schedule
- Recorded weekly videos for students to use as a means of helping their public speaking develop in an asynchronous course
- Developed activities and quizzes to further strengthen the knowledge of public speaking and communication best practices to manage speech anxiety

COMM 100: Fundamentals of Communication

- Taught the fundamentals of public speaking and introductory lessons to communication theory
- Developed activities to engage students in communication practices and management of communication apprehension
- Created quizzes and homework assignments to further test the retention of communication theories and communication practices from course lessons

Scholarship Publications

Rudnick, J. J., Roberts, D., Sonsalla, T., **Fowler, V.**, & Webb, C. (2024). Delivery modes, elements, and exceptions: Exploring and troubling the canon of delivery in public speaking. In S. M. Munz, A. M. Wright, & T. McKenna-Buchanan (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Public Speaking Research and Theory* (pp. 121-132). Routledge.

Manuscripts Under Review

Fowler, V. (Submitted). *Cultivating success: Exploring mentorship in collegiate speech and debate for student retention and growth*. Manuscript under review with a peer-reviewed speech and debate journal.

Competitively Selected Papers

Fowler, V. (2022, April). *Eirwen: White as Snow*. Sigma Tau Delta International Convention, Atlanta, GA.

Panel Participation

“Coaches of Color: Navigating Microaggressions and Fostering Inclusive Team Cultures.” Phi Kappa Delta Division, National Communication Association Developmental Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 2024. **(Chair)**

“Where We Belong: Forensics Teams as Communities.” Phi Kappa Delta Division, National Communication Association Developmental Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 2024. **(Panelist)**

“Communicating in Greater Regard: Balancing Coach and Student Wellness.” Phi Kappa Delta Division, National Communication Association Developmental Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 2024. **(Panelist)**

“Black Coaches Matter - A Call to Transform the Structural Barriers that Hinder the Agency and Expression of Black Coaches.” National Forensics Association Division, National Communication Association, National Harbor, MD, November 2023. **(Chair)**

“Bringing DEI to the Ballots: Examining and Deconstructing the Hegemonic Power Structures That Impact Marginalized Student Experience.” American Forensic Association Division, National Communication Association, National Harbor, MD, November 2023. **(Chair)**

Koch, M., Attridge, A., **Fowler, V.**, Marlow, E., Martinelli, A., Mungin, D., & Roberts, D. (2023 November). In E. Gamboa (Chair), *Freedom to Speech: Forensics responses to developing restrictions in education*. Discussion panel presented at the meeting of the National Communication Association, National Harbor, MD. **(Panelist)**

Gabryelczyk, K., Gahler, H., Hanchey, J., Hay, A., Holland, C., . . . **Fowler, V.**, & Graves, Z. (2023 November). In B. Brandley (Chair), *Freedom from Allonormativity: A Roundtable Discussion Centering Asexualities and Aromanticisms in Communication Research, Teaching, and Praxis*. Discussion panel presented at the meeting of the National Communication Association, National Harbor, MD. **(Panelist)**

Additional Research Experience

Forensics Mentorship (Supervised Research), Minnesota State University, Mankato. Supervisor: Justin Rudnick	2023
Bookstore Behaviors , (Supervised Research) Minnesota State University, Mankato. Supervisor: Justin Rudnick	2023

Honors and Awards

Nadine B. Andreas Graduate Teaching Assistant Awarded to an outstanding graduate student in the Humanities and Social Sciences.	2024
Ubuntu Award Nominee Ubuntu emphasizes our interconnectedness of human beings and acknowledges the inherent worth of every individual. All persons, every single one of us has something to offer, and not one expertise in life should prevail over the other.	2024
Bob Frank Award For excellence in speech and debate commitment to the Berry College Forensics team.	2022
Richard Garvey Award For excellent leadership for the speech and debate team at Berry College.	2022
Berry College Featured Student Leader Throughout each school year Berry College will do a featured story on student leaders who have stood out in their communities.	2021 – 2022

Personal Recognition for Forensic or Performance Excellence

Semifinalist, Interstate Oratorical Contest	2022
2 nd place, Persuasive Speaking, Georgia Intercollegiate Forensics Association	2022
2 nd place, Poetry Interpretation, Georgia Intercollegiate Forensics Association	2022
2 nd place, Informative Speaking, Georgia Intercollegiate Forensics Association	2022

3 rd place, Impromptu Speaking, Georgia Intercollegiate Forensics Association	2022
Quarterfinalist, Informative Speaking, National Speech Championship	2022
Quarterfinalist, Persuasive Speaking, National Speech Championship	2022
Champion, Persuasive Speaking, Georgia Intercollegiate Forensics Association	2021
Qualified to Interstate Oratorical Contest	2021
Champion, Impromptu Speaking, Georgia Intercollegiate Forensics Association	2020
3 rd place, Persuasive Speaking, Georgia Intercollegiate Forensics Association	2019

Notable Coaching Achievements, Minnesota State University, Mankato

<i>Interstate Oratory Association</i>	
Interstate Oratorical Contest	2023

<i>National Forensic Association</i>	
6 th Place, Presidents Division II Sweepstakes	2023
Octafinalist, Dramatic Interpretation	2023
Octafinalist, After-Dinner Speaking	2023
Octafinalist, Impromptu Speaking	2023
Octafinalist, Communication Analysis	2023

<i>Minnesota Collegiate Forensics Association</i>	
3 rd Place, Team Sweepstakes	2024
2 nd Place, Dramatic Interpretation	2024
6 th Place, Dramatic Interpretation	2024
Champion, Poetry Interpretation	2024
3 rd Place, Poetry Interpretation	2024
5 th Place, Program Oral Interpretation	2024
6 th Place, Program Oral Interpretation	2024
6 th Place, Impromptu Speaking	2024
2 nd Place, Team Sweepstakes	2023
State Champion, Persuasive Speaking	2023
2nd Place, Persuasive Speaking	2023
Champion, Impromptu Speaking	2023
5 th Place, Informative Speaking	2023
5 th Place, Poetry Interpretation	2023

Professional Development

Minnesota State University, Mankato

- Graduating Student APP / Internship Presentations (Spring 2024)
- Job Application Preparation (Spring 2024)
- Teaching Resources and Management (Spring 2024)
- Lifecycle of a Paper! (Spring 2024)
- Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and Instructional Designers Training (Spring 2024)
- Graduating Student Capstone Presentation (Fall 2023)
- Communication & Media Department Showcase (Fall 2023)
- Conference Submissions & Zotero Reference Manager (Fall 2023)
- Capstone Presentations (Spring 2023)
- Faculty/Graduate Student Discussion of Research and Creative Interests (Fall 2022)
- Professional Career Development, Graduate Workshop (Fall 2022)
- Academic Conference Preparation (Fall 2022)
- Course Training Strategies (Fall 2022)

Berry College

- Career Development Center (August 2021-May 2022)
- Berry College Integrity and Leadership Program (August 2021-May 2022)
- Seminar in Communication (Fall 2021)
- Recognizing Implicit Bias (2021-2022)
- Voices, A Series of Women and Gender Studies Showcases (2019 - 2022)

Related Work Experience

Berry College, Rome GA

Student Coach, Forensics Communication Aug 2019 – May 2022

- Hosted two speech dedicated three-hour work nights on Tuesdays and Thursdays to give students more practice and work time
- Held student observation hours throughout the week to offer students audience interaction to help deal with their performance anxiety
- Assisted the Director and Assistant Director of forensics with tournament preparations

Research Assistant, Women and Gender Studies Aug 2019 – May 2022

- Assisted faculty with researching materials on subjects related to race, gender, sexuality, culture and more to help build upcoming classes
- Conducted research on women and gender studies with four undergraduates and multiple faculty members in the Psychology Department.
- Assessed student assignments to check quality, completeness and assign grades.

Online Editor, Communication Aug 2021 – May 2022

- Each week of publication requires updating and editing of the newspaper
- Adjusting the design of the website
- Transforming the paper into digital format

Student Writer August 2021 – May 2022

- Written articles for the newspaper

Tutoring, General Ed Aug 2021 – May 2022

- Fours a week tutoring teenage girls in foster care and halfway houses
- Assisted in English, communication, history, science and other homework assignments

Service

Minnesota State University Mankato

Tournament Director, Larry Schnoor Invitational Tournament 2024

Vice President, National Black Graduate Student Association	2023 - Present
Secretary, Graduate Communication Association	2023 - Present
Tournament Host, Larry Schnoor Invitational Tournament	2022

Berry College

Novice Nationals	2022
Uncommon Grounds	2022
Story Slam	2022
COM Etc	2021
Voices	2021
Tennessee Porch Swing	2019
Ruth and Naomi Project	2019 - 2022
Habitat for Humanity	2018
Story Slam	2018

Membership in Professional Organizations

American Forensics Association, 2022-Present

National Communication Association, 2022-Present

National Forensics Association, 2022-Present

Phi Kappa Delta Association, 2022-Present

Sigma Tau Delta, 2021-Present