

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/a-manifesto/>

The speaker discusses a research project called "Speaking Citizens," which examines the communication skills needed for effective citizenship. They argue that being a citizen is complex and requires the ability to communicate on various issues, such as during police encounters or in courtrooms. The project focuses on the skills necessary for younger people, emphasizing the importance of confidence and clear expression in civic engagement.

The speaker describes citizenship as a relationship with strangers in shared communities, necessitating a common understanding of social rules, like traffic laws or election dates. They highlight how communication studies draw from various disciplines, including psychology, sociology, and media studies, and stress the significance of everyday speech and nonverbal communication in enhancing civic life.

They advocate for a creative approach to citizenship, where each generation can adapt and innovate on prior norms, fostering a dynamic civic landscape. The speaker notes that effective communication is crucial in both mundane and extraordinary situations, such as during emergencies or legal proceedings.

Additionally, they express concern that academic institutions often overlook teaching vital speaking skills, focusing instead on essay writing. They emphasize the need for confidence and technical skills in speaking, and how training in these areas can significantly impact daily interactions and citizenship.

Finally, the speaker calls for interdisciplinary collaboration to reinvigorate discussions around communication and highlights the importance of academics' contributions to understanding and improving the nuances of effective communication in society.