

**Public Relations**  
**Unit 5: Theory into Practice: The Public Relations Professional**  
**Grade Level: 11-12**  
**Timeframe: 15-20 days**

**Unit Overview:** The practice of public relations has never been as accepted or respected as it is today. A successful communications professional must be knowledgeable about all aspects of the communications mix. For an individual who writes well and communicates clearly, and who understands that integrity and reputation are critical for success, the practice of public relations will continue to offer career opportunities. Employers will increasingly seek experienced and competent public relations professionals to help them communicate. PR novices must work to hone their writing skills, seize internships, and join professional communications organizations in order to network for employment.

**Enduring Understandings/ Essential Questions**

- Even in the age of social media and the Internet, writing remains the key to public relations.
  - Public relations practitioners are professional communicators.
  - There is no substitute for clear and precise language in informing, motivating, and persuading.
  - Beginning public relations professionals are expected to have mastery over the written word and the various writing forms of the “industry”.
  - The need for integration—for communications cross-training—to learn the different skills of marketing, advertising, sales promotion, and public relations—becomes a requirement for all communicators.
  - The watchword in business today is branding—creating a differentiable identity or position for a company or product.
  - Integrated marketing communications becomes paramount in preparing public relations professionals for the challenges of the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Why is writing the foremost technical skill of public relations professionals? What is purpose of a news release? What is an SMR and what distinguishes it? What are the differences among advertising, marketing, and public relations? What are the purposes of public relations advertising? What is the cardinal rule for communicating in a crisis? What steps can a college student take to get a jump on public relations employment?

**Common Core Standards**

**Standards/Cumulative Progress Indicators (Taught and Assessed):**

- RI.11-12.2 Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text.
- RI.11-12.3 Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas or events interact and develop over the course of the text.
- RI.11-12.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term over terms over the course of a text.
- RI.11-12.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or forms (e.g. visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.
- W.11-12.1 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- W.11-12.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- W.11-12.5 Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, writing, rewriting or trying a new approach.
- SL.11-12.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grades 11-12 topics, texts, and issues.
- SL.11-12.2 Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data.
- SL.11-12.4 Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal

and informal tasks.

SL.11-12.6 Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

L.11-12.3 Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Standard and Progress Indicators:**

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Creativity and Innovation

Collaboration, Teamwork, and Leadership

Cross-Cultural Understanding and Interpersonal Communication

Accountability, Productivity, and Ethics

**Unit 5 Academic Vocabulary**

Inverted pyramid, rationale, nourishing quotes , taboo terms, social media releases, integrated marketing communications, third-party endorsement, infomercials, buzz marketing, crisis management

**Application in Classroom**

**Reading-**Students read subject-matter appropriate, informational texts at grade level and use post it notes or another agreed upon annotation strategy to jot ideas/responses/findings in classroom notebook to complete close reading for meaning.

**Writing-** Throughout the unit, students will have multiple opportunities to read and write across a variety of forms for various purposes.

**Speaking and Listening-**Students follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.

**Technology—**Students utilize technology to research course subject matter, process and publish their writing as well as to create multimedia presentations.

**Instructional Plan**

**Reflection**

**Pre-assessment**

Research Simulation assessment (Readings culled from Textual Material)

Unit Learning Objectives	Instructional Practice	Student Strategies	Formative Assessment	Resources and Activities	Reflection
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<p><b>SWBAT:</b></p> <p>Discuss the reasons that the public relations professional must be the best writer in the organization.</p> <p>Explore the fundamentals of writing, from the drafting to style to ensure worthwhile content.</p> <p>Discuss the rationale for and the elements of the news release, the most practical and ubiquitous of public relations writing vehicles.</p> <p>Examine the requisites of writing for the Internet and social media.</p>	<p>Business Writing Fundamentals: News Releases</p> <p>Differentiation/Modifications as necessary</p> <p>Gradual Release</p>	<p>Active Listening</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Consolidating Thought: Summarizing, Synthesizing, Inferring, Discussion Web</p> <p>Interest-Based Options/Student Process/Product Choice</p> <p>Close reading of text: Annotation</p> <p>Academic Vocabulary acquisition</p>	<p>Misconception Checks</p> <p>Index Card Summaries and Questions</p> <p>Visual Representation</p> <p>Written Responses Using Individual White Boards</p> <p>Exit Slips</p> <p>Additional selected strategies as determined by student readiness</p> <p>Strategies for Student Reflection <a href="http://www.uvm.edu/dewey/reflection_manual/starting.html">http://www.uvm.edu/dewey/reflection_manual/starting.html</a></p> <p>PARCC Rubrics</p> <p>Last Word and Discussion Starters (p.325-326)</p>	<p>Anchor Text: Seitel’s <i>The Practice of Public Relations</i> 12<sup>th</sup> edition (Unit 5 covers text pages 311-377). Text provides structured support to Instructional Model with defined text features which reinforce key concepts and learning objectives of the course.</p> <p>PR Ethics Mini-Case: reformed emphasis on ethics. “<i>Bad Taste Tweet Release</i>” p.321; “<i>Shilling the Morning Joe</i>” p.341; “<i>Kobe’s Nimble Public Relations Once Again Saves the Day</i>” p.355</p> <p>Case Study: current and relevant topics in the industry. “<i>The Raina, Inc. News Release</i>” p.326; “<i>Resurrecting Brand Vick</i>” p.344; “<i>Carnival’s Cruise Crisis</i>” p.360</p> <p>Student Laptop access</p> <p>OWL @Purdue Online Writing Lab</p>	<p><b>Teacher Questions for Self-Reflection</b></p> <p>(See Unit 1)</p> <p><a href="http://edge.ascd.org/blogpost/exercise-ten-teacher-questions-for-self-reflection">http://edge.ascd.org/blogpost/exercise-ten-teacher-questions-for-self-reflection</a></p>
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<p>Discuss the synthesis of advertising, marketing, and public relations to yield an integrated marketing approach in promoting products, services and brands.</p> <p>Explore the distinctions among advertising, marketing, and public relations.</p> <p>Discuss the two marketing differentiators of public relations—publicity and third-party endorsement.</p> <p>Examine the various tactics and techniques that distinguish integrated marketing, from the traditional—public relations advertising, trade shows, cause-related marketing—to the 21<sup>st</sup>-century innovations—social media marketing, brand integration, buzz marketing.</p>	<p>Do Now</p> <p>Anticipatory Set</p> <p>Direct Instruction</p> <p>Modeling</p> <p>Guided/Independent Practice</p> <p>Homework</p> <p>Wright 2009, 2011</p>	<p>Cooperative Learning-Small Groups</p> <p>Questions and Material Check</p> <p>Think Pair Share</p> <p>Oral Questioning</p> <p>Fishbowl</p>	<p>Last Word and Discussion Starters (p.343-344)</p>	<p>Pick of Literature “<i>The Public Relations Writer’s Handbook</i>” p. 326; “<i>Strategic Integrated Marketing Communications</i>” p.344; “<i>Crisis Management in the New Strategy Landscape</i>” p.359; “<i>Ready to Launch: The PR Couture Guide to Breaking Into Fashion PR</i>” p.375</p>	
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<p>Discuss the importance in counseling on the actions and managing the communication of an organization in crisis.</p> <p>Explore the role of public relations in managing issues and risks and communicating in crisis.</p> <p>Discuss the aspects of crisis planning, message mapping, and implementing crisis communication.</p> <p>Examine how media relations differ in time of crisis than in normal everyday operations.</p>	<p>Build Textual Acuity— Exposure to Course Specific Informational Texts. Texts to be determined by Unit 5 enduring understandings and essential questions; including but limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Advertisements</li> <li>•Agendas</li> <li>•Autobiographies</li> <li>•Biographies</li> <li>• Company profiles</li> <li>• Correspondence</li> <li>• Essays /speeches</li> <li>• Feature articles</li> <li>• Government documents</li> <li>• Histories</li> <li>• Interviews</li> <li>•Journal articles</li> <li>• Legal Documents/ contracts</li> <li>• Magazine articles/ news articles</li> <li>• Memoirs</li> <li>• Editorial pieces</li> <li>• Political cartoons</li> <li>• Product specifications</li> <li>• Science investigations</li> <li>• Training manuals</li> </ul>	<p>Webbing/Clustering/Mapping</p> <p>Close Reading: Text Chunking</p> <p>Margin Notes</p> <p>Consolidated Thought: Summarizing-Synthesizing- Inferring-Discussion Clues</p>	<p>Last Word and Discussion Starters(p.358-359)</p>	<p>Technology Integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>YouTube:</b> <a href="http://www.youtube.com">www.youtube.com</a></li> <li>• <b>TeacherTube:</b> <a href="http://www.teachertube.com">www.teachertube.com</a></li> <li>• <b>Google Docs/Drive:</b> <a href="https://drive.google.com/">https://drive.google.com/</a></li> <li>• <b>Facebook:</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a></li> <li>• <b>Pinterest:</b> <a href="http://pinterest.com/">http://pinterest.com/</a></li> <li>• <b>Edmodo:</b> <a href="http://www.edmodo.com/">www.edmodo.com/</a></li> <li>• <b>Blogs:</b> <a href="http://www.blogger.com/">www.blogger.com/</a></li> <li>• <b>Cicero:</b> <a href="http://cicerohistory.com/">http://cicerohistory.com/</a></li> <li>• <b>Student Surveys:</b> <a href="http://www.polleverywhere.com">www.polleverywhere.com</a> or <a href="http://www.socrative.com">www.socrative.com</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Word Clouds:</b> <a href="http://www.wordle.net">www.wordle.net</a> or <a href="http://www.tagul.com">www.tagul.com</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Class Website:</b> <a href="http://www.weebly.com">www.weebly.com</a></li> <li>• <b>Online Q &amp; A:</b> <a href="http://www.quizlet.com">www.quizlet.com</a>, <a href="http://www.studyboost.com">www.studyboost.com</a>, or <a href="http://www.studyblue.com">www.studyblue.com</a></li> <li>• <b>Podcasts:</b> A multimedia digital file made available on the Internet for downloading to a portable media player, computer, etc.</li> <li>• <b>PowerPoint</b></li> </ul>	
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<p>Discuss how a public relations student or novice finds position in the practice of public relations.</p> <p>Explore the role of public relations in time of economic uncertainty, charting how the field has improved its position in times of stress.</p> <p>Discuss the aspects of organizing the search, job letters, resumes, interviewing, and follow-up.</p> <p>Examine how an individual can map his or her course for long-term public relations success.</p>			<p>Last Word and Discussion Starters (p.374-375)</p> <p>Planning and Organizing a PR Job Search</p> <p>Organizing and Writing a PR resume</p> <p>Organizing and Preparing for a PR Job Interview</p>	<p>From the Top: "Ultimate Word to the Wise (Student): An Interview with Bill Heyman</p>	

<b>Summative Written Assessments</b>					
Unit 5 Reading Informational Text, Research Simulation Task					
<b>Summative Performance Assessment</b>					
Unit 5 Oral Presentation, Multimedia Presentation					