



APPLIED THINKING LAB

Prague | Delivered in English

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME | SPARK | YEAR 1

Applied Voice Lab

Critical Thinking, Live Speaking
& AI Fluency for First-Year Students

Every student speaks every session.
Progress is measured, not assumed.

SPARK Year 1

Elective | Mini-series | Module

Prepared for academic directors, deans, vice-deans for studies
and first-year programme leads.

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SPARK | YEAR 1

Applied Voice Lab

Critical Thinking, Live Speaking & AI Fluency for First-Year Students

A practice-based lab where every student speaks every session, trains with AI as a sparring partner and finishes with video-evidenced proof of progress.

THE PROMISE

First-year students are expected to argue, present and use AI from week one, yet few are ever trained to. SPARK builds the **academic voice**: structuring and defending an argument, questioning evidence, contributing to seminars and presenting under questioning, while using AI to sharpen their thinking, not replace it. Progress is measured, not assumed, through recorded baseline and final talks scored on a shared rubric.

AT A GLANCE

Who it is for	First-year undergraduate students, any faculty
Formats	Semester elective (12-14 sessions), mini-series (6-8), club or embedded module
Session length	45, 60 or 90 minutes with mini-breaks
Group size	About 15-30 students
Evidence	Recorded baseline and final talks scored on a shared rubric, plus a personal portfolio
First step	Free 30-minute masterclass: <i>Say it in 60 seconds</i>

WHY IT MATTERS

7 in 10

companies rank analytical thinking as an essential skill, the most sought-after core skill (World Economic Forum, 2025)

AI + data

are the fastest-growing skills worldwide, with creative thinking and resilience also rising (World Economic Forum, 2025)

100%

participation by design: every student speaks in every session

Source: World Economic Forum, The Future of Jobs Report 2025.

THE PROGRAMME

What students learn and do

CORE OBJECTIVES

- Move every student from silent observer to active seminar contributor, with measurable before-and-after evidence.
- Separate evidence from opinion, and spot weak reasoning in others and in themselves.
- Turn any idea into a clear 60-second or 3-minute message, and handle questions without losing the thread.
- Use AI as a sparring partner while keeping authorship and integrity.

KEY TOPICS

- Why strong ideas sound weak
- Critical reading and listening
- Claim, evidence, reasoning
- The three-part message
- Voice, presence and delivery
- Handling challenge and pushback
- Human + AI: prompt, verify, own it
- Giving and receiving feedback

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

Day-one baseline video and later replay • Speed seminars where everyone speaks • “Fact or Fog” evidence challenge • AI error hunt • Ideas Night showcase

STUDENTS LEAVE WITH

A **Voice Portfolio**: before-and-after video, a personal speaking toolkit, a feedback log and one polished 3-minute talk.

HOW IT WORKS

How the programme unfolds

A sample arc for a semester elective. Phases are adjusted to your calendar and group, and the same arc compresses into a mini-series.

1. Baseline and breaking the ice

Students record a baseline talk, set norms and begin with low-stakes speaking so everyone participates from the first session.

2. Think straight

Claims, evidence and reasoning. Students learn to read critically, spot fallacies and ask sharper questions.

3. Say it well

Structure, delivery and handling questions.
Repeated short reps with peer and coach feedback.

4. Human + AI, then showcase

AI as sparring partner, then final recorded talks, a replay against the baseline and an Ideas Night.

A SESSION IN PRACTICE

Example session: Claim, Evidence, Reasoning

Spark	A viral claim students must judge in 60 seconds.
Tool	The claim-evidence-reasoning frame.
Rep	Pairs argue and rebut in 90-second rounds.
Debrief	Peer and coach feedback against the shared rubric.
Transfer	Apply the frame to a reading from one of the students' own courses.

HOW PROGRESS IS MEASURED

A recorded baseline and final talk scored on four criteria (structure, evidence, delivery, response to questions), a participation log, a short student survey and an anonymised summary report for faculty.

FLEXIBLE BY DESIGN

Complementary to what you already offer

The Applied Thinking Lab does not compete with your existing programmes. It adds practical, in-demand skills that sit between courses, giving your students an academic and practical edge that students, parents and partner organisations notice. **Nothing here is set in stone:** format, session length and content are co-designed with you.

FORMATS

Semester elective 12-14 weekly sessions with a full practice arc.	Mini-series 6-8 sessions focused on one skill set.	Club or extracurricular track Open, recurring and student-led with coach support.
Weekend or summer intensive A concentrated programme for fast results.	Embedded module Slotted into an existing course and co-designed with its lead.	Faculty and staff track Workshops and ongoing sessions on request.

Session length: 45, 60 or 90 minutes with mini-breaks. **Group size:** about 15-30. **Needs:** a room with a screen. **Prerequisites:** none. **Language:** English.

YOUR RISK-FREE FIRST STEP

Free 30-minute masterclass: Say it in 60 seconds

0-3 min	Welcome and a hook: why smart ideas sound weak.
3-8 min	The three-part message framework.
8-18 min	Round 1: students deliver 60-second messages in pairs or trios.
18-25 min	Peer feedback, then a second attempt.
25-28 min	A 30-second AI sparring demo: how AI can challenge a message.
28-30 min	Feedback form.

Students complete a five-question feedback form (engagement, usefulness, whether they would join a full programme, one word to describe it, and what they would like to practise). Within 48 hours you receive a one-page summary of the response.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU

Why SPARK works for your university

FOR THE INSTITUTION

- **Smoother first-year transition:** students find their voice early, which supports seminar participation and belonging.
- **Engagement and retention:** participation-based sessions that students attend and recommend.
- **Responsible AI practice** from day one, aligned with your policy and academic integrity standards.
- **A distinctive offer** for admissions, open days and your reputation narrative.
- **Showcase evenings** that impress students, parents and partner organisations.
- **Measurable outcomes:** a pre/post rubric and an anonymised report to support documented learning outcomes.
- **Low faculty burden:** an external expert, repeatable every semester and co-designable with existing courses.
- **A low-risk start:** one free 30-minute masterclass before any commitment.

FOR YOUR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

- Speaking and reasoning skills for seminars from the first weeks.
- A recorded before-and-after that shows real progress.
- Practice with AI that builds judgement, not dependence.
- Peer feedback and teamwork that help in group assignments.
- Standout material for CVs and applications.

QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

Does this replace anything we teach?

No. It complements existing courses and can be embedded in them, co-designed with the course lead.

How is AI handled?

Tool-agnostic and aligned with your institution's AI policy. Students prompt, verify, challenge and document, and keep authorship of their work.

What do you need from us?

A room with a screen, a group of students and a time slot. Students' own devices are welcome but optional.

How do we begin?

With a free 30-minute masterclass and a one-page summary of student response within 48 hours. Format, schedule and content are then co-designed with you.

ABOUT

Tosin Adebayo, MA

Founder, Applied Thinking Lab

Economist, educator, practitioner and poet. Tosin has taught and guest-lectured at institutions including Newton University, the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Charles University, Robert Gordon University and the University of Cape Town, and has mentored young people for over a decade with JA Worldwide (Junior Achievement). He has led summer programmes for teenagers and coached debaters and public speakers.

A Valedictorian of his Master's class in Applied Economics and a multiple-time inter-university debate winner, he combines academic rigour with real industry experience across global marketplaces and AI (including Shutterstock), logistics, manufacturing, automotive, medical sciences, market research, consultancy and entrepreneurship. He has worked and trained colleagues across Europe, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East.

His belief is simple: **skills are built by doing, not by listening**. Students know his classes as relatable, energetic and refreshingly unconventional. Sessions are delivered in English.

NEXT STEP

A **20-minute conversation** about your students and priorities, then a free 30-minute masterclass with a group of your choice. Reply to the email that brought you this document, or contact Tosin directly:

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ALSO IN THE APPLIED THINKING LAB

BUILD | Applied Problem-Solving & Persuasion Lab

Frame it, prove it, pitch it, with AI-augmented analysis, for years 2-3.

LEAD | Decision Edge Lab

Decisions, influence and AI-powered leadership for postgraduate and mature learners.