



American Literature Persuasive Speech Final
Assignment

ARGUMENTATION

- 1) Brainstorm topics.
- 2) Select your topic. Choose a manageable topic you feel strongly about. Remember, you want to be a credible speaker, so choose something that you understand. Less is more.

Example-school uniforms as opposed to the death penalty

- 3) Research the topic and choose a side.
- 4) Keep your audience in mind as you write your speech.
- 5) Find two articles that help defend your position and incorporate quotations from each article into your speech as support.
- 6) Choose one opposing article and use that to address opposing views.
- 7) Annotate your articles. (*Total of three annotated articles*)
- 8) Write your introduction including 1.) motivator/attention getter, 2.) thesis statement that defines your objective, and 3.) credibility statement.
- 9) The body of the speech includes your personal position, two credited points to support your argument, and one credited counterpoint.
- 10) Arguments must include both an emotional and a logical appeal.
- 11) Points are delivered through specifics demonstrating evidence of scholarly research.
- 12) Clear topic and objectives are stated at the beginning and at the end requiring your audience to agree, act, commit, etc.



Delivery :

- Eye Contact
- Body language
- Voice: rate and volume
- Diction: enunciation, pronunciation
- Enthusiasm!
- 3-5 minutes in length

Please submit a hard copy of your speech with a Works Cited page and the annotated articles on _____.

* Looking for a topic? - Here's a Helpful Link:

<http://debatepedia.idebate.org/en/index.php/>

101 Persuasive Essay Topics

1. Should students be allowed to have cell phones in elementary and high schools?
2. Should students have to wear uniforms?
3. Should college athletes be paid for playing?
4. Should the elderly receive free bus rides?
5. Should state colleges be free to attend?
6. Should all American citizens have to complete a year of community service?
7. Should students be required to take Spanish classes?
8. Should marijuana be legal for medicinal purposes?
9. Should the voting age be lowered to thirteen?
10. Should the driving age be raised to twenty-one?
11. Should students be paid for having good grades?
12. Should illegal immigrants be allowed to get drivers licenses?
13. Should not wearing a seatbelt be illegal?
14. Should students' textbooks be replaced by notebook computers?
15. Should students have to pass a basic skills test to graduate high school?
16. Should schools raise money by selling candy and sugary soft drinks to students?
17. Should schools serve french-fries and fried potato products to students at lunch?
18. Should students' grades in gym affect their grade point averages?
19. Should girls be allowed to play on boys sports teams?
20. Should teens be able to buy violent video games?
21. Should boys and girls be in separate classes?
22. Should teenage girls be allowed to get birth control without the permission of their parents?
23. Should our country have a universal health care program?
24. Should immigration laws be reformed?
25. Should the federal government recognize civil unions?
26. Should people who download music and movies illegally be punished?
27. Should school athletes have to be on the honor roll to play in games?
28. Should music with curse words be allowed at school dances?
29. Should public schools begin the day with a silent prayer time?
30. Should students be able to listen to MP3 players on headphones during study hall?
31. Should schools offer fast food options like McDonalds or Taco Bell?
32. Should smoking be allowed at parks and other outdoor public venues?
33. Should cities offer free public Wi-Fi?
34. Should the government place a tax on junk food and fatty snacks?
35. Should the 2nd amendment give citizens the right to own assault weaponry?
36. Should people travelling in airplanes have to undergo intensive security screenings?
37. Should restaurants be allowed to sell genetically modified chickens under the name "chicken"?
38. Should teachers have to pass a basic skills test every ten years to renew their certification?
39. Should people be allowed to keep exotic animals like chimpanzees or tigers?
40. Should people be allowed to keep pit-bull dogs?
41. Should the city offer a bike sharing program?
42. Should there be an ordinance citing people who fail to recycle \$50?
43. Should there be an ordinance citing people who play music too loudly \$50?
44. Should prostitution be legalized and regulated by the government?
45. Should celebrities who break the law face stricter penalties?
46. Should the government increase spending on the space program?
47. Should larger passengers have to pay for two plane or movie theater tickets?
48. Should children have to use booster seats in cars?
49. Should people have to get a license to become parents?
50. Should there be tougher federal restrictions for content on the internet?
51. Should people be allowed to curse on daytime television?
52. Should owners be legally accountable for clearing snow from sidewalks on their property?
53. Should sexual education be taught in public schools?
54. Should students be able to get free condoms at school?
55. Should students who commit cyberbullying be suspended from school?
56. Should corporations be allowed to advertise in schools?
57. Should students be allowed to eat during class?
58. Should more be done to protect and preserve endangered animals?
59. Is it appropriate for students and teachers to be friends on Facebook?
60. Should students have open campus lunch periods?
61. Should abortions be legal?
62. Should abortions be legal in cases of rape and incest?
63. Should the death penalty be used to punish violent criminals?
64. Should students learn about world religions in public schools?
65. Should schools start later in the morning?
66. Should the USA end overseas military operations?
67. Should politicians be allowed to accept campaign contributions from corporate lobbyists?
68. Should people with terminal illnesses have the right to doctor assisted suicides?
69. Should Puerto Rico become a state?
70. Should stem cell researchers be able to use the stem cells from aborted babies to cure diseases?
71. Should school athletes have to take drug tests?
72. Should professional athletes have to take drug tests?
73. Should America convert to the metric system?
74. Should high school students have to complete community service hours to graduate?
75. Should teens over 13 years be allowed into R rated movies?
76. Should state tests be given in other languages for ESL students?
77. Should scientists be allowed to test products intended for human use on animals?
78. Should unhealthy fast food products be sold with a warning label?
79. Should there be a tariff or tax on products manufactured outside of the country?
80. Should students or teachers receive money for scoring well on standardized tests?
81. Should everyone under the age of 17 have a 9:00 PM curfew?
82. Should schools with low scores on standardized tests be closed?
83. Should minors be allowed to drink alcoholic beverages in their homes with their parents' consent?
84. Should students be allowed to drop out before they turn 18 years old?
85. Should alcohol manufacturers be allowed to advertise on television?
86. Should students as young as fourteen be allowed to hold jobs?
87. Should American families have a two child max rule to limit population growth?
88. Should children younger than thirteen be allowed to watch MTV or music videos?
89. Should people who are caught driving drunk lose their licenses for a year?
90. Should students who fail their classes be retained and have to repeat the grade?
91. Should large businesses and corporations be required to employ a number of minorities proportionate to the population?
92. Should female construction workers earn the same wages as males?
93. Should children in temporary living situations with 3.0 GPAs earn free college tuition?
94. Should gambling and sports betting be illegal or should the government regulate it?
95. Should children who commit violent crimes be tried as adults?
96. Should the government be allowed to detain suspected terrorists without trial?
97. Should the government censor internet content deemed inappropriate?
98. Should teachers have to wear uniforms or have a dress code?
99. Should teachers be allowed to have cell phones in the classroom?
100. Should the state execute dogs that have bitten someone?
101. Should talking on a cell phone without a hands-free device while driving be illegal?

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Attention Grabber	Effective use of attention getting strategy to capture listeners' attention and to introduce topic. Attention getter is relevant and meaningful and gains the desired response from audience	Use of relevant attention getting strategy, but did not adequately capture audience attention.	Attention getter did not relate to the speech.	No attention getter.
Thesis Statement	The thesis statement states the topic of the speech and establishes a position. Main points are previewed.	The thesis statement states the topic, but does not take a definitive position or outline the main points of the essay.	The thesis statement leaves the reader unclear about the direction of the message.	No thesis statement.
Support for position	The writer has included two annotated articles to support his/her position, and uses the information in the speech.	The writer has included one annotated article to support his/her position. And uses the information in the speech	The writer has articles that do not relate to the thesis or the writer did not annotate the articles.	No articles
Opposing Viewpoint	The opposing viewpoint is addressed and disproved.	The opposing viewpoint is addressed but only parts are disproved.	The opposing viewpoint is included but is not disproved.	The opposing viewpoint is not addressed.
Organization	Arguments and statements are in a logical order with appropriate transitions.	The speech is organized, but some transitions are missing.	The speech is organized in some parts and does not have clear transitions.	The speech is not organized.
Word Choice	The writer uses carefully selected words to persuade and engage the audience. Both logical and emotional appeals are used effectively.	The words create a clear message. But more persuasive words are needed. Both logical and emotional appeals are used.	Words are not precise or accurate and do not make the message clear. Either a logical or an emotional appeal is used.	The same words are used repeatedly and may confuse the audience. Appeals are unclear and neither prove logic or elicit emotion.
Speech Delivery	Student demonstrates excellent eye contact body language rate and volume diction enunciation, pronunciation	Student demonstrates good eye contact body language rate and volume diction enunciation, pronunciation	Student demonstrates fair eye contact body language rate and volume diction enunciation, pronunciation	Student needs improvement with eye contact body language rate and volume diction enunciation, pronunciation

ARGUMENTATION

PERSUASIVE SPEECH ASSIGNMENT:

I. Outline: Topic

A. *Introduction:*

1. *Motivator/Attention getter* - to entice audience into your Topic
2. *Thesis Statement* - that defines your Topic
(a clear, definitive statement that defines/explains
the purpose/intent of topic/speech)

{The purpose of my speech is to.....}
3. *Credibility Statement:* (Why you should believe in me as the speaker
on this topic?)
(Why I am a credible/believable speaker on topic?)

{Due to my knowledge/experience on this topic,.....}

B. *Body:*

1. Your Personal Opinion on Topic: (Your passion/conviction to Topic)
2. Article #1 = supports your Argument of Topic
3. Article #2 = supports your Argument of Topic
4. Article #3 = opposes your Argument of Topic

C. *Conclusion:*

1. Recap major points of Argument - pros and cons of Topic
2. Make/declare any final/culminating point(s) about topic to Audience with
the intent/goal/objective of "persuading" audience to agree/act/
commit to the issue of this Topic!!! (emotional/logical appeal)



MLA Citation Style

CITATION EXAMPLES FOR PERSUASIVE SPEECH "WORKS CITED" PAGE:

● Article in a journal

Ferrer, Ada. "Cuba 1898: Rethinking Race, Nation, and Empire." Radical History Review 73 (1999): 22-49.

Man, Glenn K. S. "The Third Man: Pulp Fiction and Art Film." Literature Film Quarterly 21.3 (1993): 171-178.

● Article in a newspaper or magazine

Semenak, Susan. "Feeling Right at Home: Government Residence Eschews Traditional Rules." Montreal Gazette 28 Dec. 1995, Final Ed.: A4.

Driedger, Sharon Doyle. "After Divorce." Maclean's 20 Apr. 1998: 38-43.

📖 Article from a database

Provide the same information as you would for a printed journal article and add the name of the database, the platform of the database (if applicable), the access provider (Concordia University Libraries), the date of access and the general URL for the database

NOTE - If the article is in HTML only, pagination is not required. However, you can include the start page followed by a hyphen, a space and then a period. If a PDF version is available, provide pagination.

Brennan, Katherine Stern. "Culture in the Cities: Provincial Academies During the Early Years of Louis XIV's Reign." Canadian Journal of History 38.1 (2003): 19-42. CBCA Complete. ProQuest. Concordia University Libraries. 29 Mar. 2004 <<http://www.proquest.com>>.

Dussault, Marc and Bruce G. Barnett. "Peer-assisted Leadership: Reducing Educational Managers' Professional Isolation." Journal of Educational Administration 34.3 (1996): 5-. ABI/INFORM Global. ProQuest. Concordia University Libraries. 29 Mar. 2004 <<http://www.proquest.com>>.

Heming, Li, Paul Waley, and Phil Rees. "Reservoir Resettlement in China: Past Experience and the Three Gorges Dam." The Geographical Journal 167.3 (2001): 195-212. Academic Search Premier. EBSCOhost. Concordia University Libraries. 29 Mar. 2004 <<http://search.epnet.com>>.

🌐 Web page

"Joyce Wieland." Celebrating Women's Achievements: Women Artists in Canada. 2000. National Library of Canada. 29 Mar. 2004. <<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/women/h12-523-e.html>>

🌐 Internet site

Legends of our Times: Native Ranching and Rodeo Life on the Plains and Plateau 22 Jan. 1999. Canadian Museum of Civilization. 29 Mar. 2004 <<http://www.civilisations.ca/aborig/rodeo/rodeo00e.html>>

📖 Article in online periodical

Sehmby, Dalbir S. "Wrestling and Popular Culture." CCLWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture 4.1 (2002). 29 Mar. 2004 <<http://cclwebjournal.lib.purdue.edu/4clweb02-1/sehmby02.html>>