

Persuasive Speech Basics

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will outline and deliver a one-minute persuasive speech using a clear claim, supporting reasons, and a call to action.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Paper
- pencil
- index cards for notes
- a timer or phone stopwatch

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Choose a topic you have a genuine opinion about (e.g., a later school start time, a household rule you'd change) and write your claim in one clear sentence.
2. List three reasons or pieces of evidence supporting your claim on paper, then rank them from strongest to weakest.
3. Transfer your claim and three reasons onto one index card as brief bullet points -- not full sentences -- to use as speaking notes.
4. Practice delivering the speech out loud three times using only the index card, ending each time with a direct call to action ('That's why we should...').
5. Time your final run-through with a stopwatch and record how close you got to one minute.

QUESTIONS

1. What is your persuasive claim, written as a complete sentence?

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2. List your three supporting reasons in order from strongest to weakest, and explain why you ranked them that way.

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3. What was your call to action at the end of the speech?
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- 4. How close did your final timed run come to one minute, and what would you cut or add to hit the target exactly?**
