

Speech Writing Basics

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will draft a persuasive speech with a clear claim, three supporting reasons, and a call to action.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- paper
- index cards
- pen
- highlighter

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Brainstorm 3 topics you have a strong opinion about (school policy, a household rule, a community issue) and pick one.
2. Write your speech's claim (main argument) as a single clear sentence at the top of a page.
3. Draft 3 body paragraphs, each starting with a reason that supports your claim, followed by 1-2 supporting facts or examples for each.
4. Write an attention-grabbing opening line and a strong closing call-to-action sentence.
5. Transfer your claim and 3 reasons onto index cards in short bullet phrases (not full sentences) for future speaking practice.

QUESTIONS

1. **What is your speech's claim, written as one sentence?**
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2. **List your three supporting reasons in order from strongest to weakest, and explain why you ordered them that way.**
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3. **What is your call to action, and why is it important to end a persuasive speech this way?**
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4. Why did you write bullet phrases instead of full sentences on your index cards?
