

CHOOSING A TOPIC FOR YOUR PERSUASIVE SPEECH

To make it easier for yourself, choose something where you can think of two sides to the argument. Avoid topics where it's obvious – “we should be kind to everyone” or “pollution is bad for the environment” – nobody would disagree with that! You would have trouble coming up with any counter arguments. There should be at least some points to consider on both sides.

Below is a list of suggested topics, but you can choose your own as long as you check it with me first.

SOME SUGGESTED TOPICS:

- Boredom is good for kids.
- Being an only child is better than having siblings.
- All cars should be electric.
- Homework should be optional.
- The government should tax junk food because of the health risks.
- Playing video games is a good hobby for kids.
- Art is more important than maths.
- Should students be paid for having good grades?
- There should be only one currency that every country uses.
- Dogs are better than cats.
- Mosquitos are the most annoying of all bugs.
- Voice recognition or fingerprint locks are safer than keys.
- People should only eat foods that they personally grew, caught, or raised.
- Parents of bullies should be punished for their child's actions.
- Classes should be grouped by ability levels rather than ages.
- Technology makes people's lives better.
- Daylight Savings Time should be eliminated.
- Aquariums and zoos are cruel to animals and should be banned.
- McDonald's is better than Hungry Jacks.
- Students should be allowed to have phones in high school
- Students should not have to wear uniforms.
- All Australian citizens should have to complete a year of community service.
- Australians should be allowed to keep exotic animals as pets.
- Celebrities who break the law should face stricter penalties because of their influence.
- Students should be allowed to eat during class.
- Schools should start later in the morning.
- Scientists should not be allowed to test products intended for human use on animals.
- Australian families should have a two-child max rule to limit population growth.
- Students who fail their classes should have to repeat the year.
- Dogs who have attacked someone should be put down.

Persuasive Speech Planning Sheet

Hook – grab interest with a quote, rhetorical question, humour, vivid description etc.

Thesis Statement: establish what you are going to persuade the audience

Argument one

One good reason why you should agree with me.

Supporting evidence:

- Facts and statistics
- Emotional appeal

Argument two

Another good reason why you should agree with me.

Supporting evidence:

- Facts and statistics
- Emotional appeal

Argument three

A third reason why you should agree with me.

Supporting evidence:

- Facts and statistics
- Emotional appeal

Counter argument

Some people might argue that.... it could be said.... you might be thinking that...

BUT!

This is incorrect because.... this is why I don't agree... that makes no sense because...

Conclusion

Summary – review your key points briefly

Call to action – this is what I want you, the listener, to do now that I've convinced you.