TYPICAL SAMPLE PERSUASIVE SPEECH TOPICS

1. abortion
2. adoption of children
3. cruelty to animals
4. air pollution
5. air safety
6. death penalty
7. Alaskan pipeline
8. amnesty
9. animal shelters
10. apartheid
11. death with dignity
12. auto theft
13. capital punishment
14. care for elderly
15. child abuse
16. cloning
17. corruption in public office
18. cosmetic surgery
19. defense budget
20. disarmament
21. drunk driving
22. hunger in America
23. inflation
24. invasion of privacy
25. juvenile felonies
26. legalization of drinking at 18
27. prostitution
28. energy crisis
29. euthanasia
30. reverse discrimination
31. sex education
32. taxes
33. gun control
34. nuclear waste
35. ocean pollution
36. oil drilling
37. organ transplants
38. unemployment
39. recycling
40. pornography

EXAMPLES OF CREATIVE PERSUASIVE SPEECH TOPICS

1. I deserve an A on this speech
2. Pete Rose is a Hall of Famer
3. Hooters is a family restaurant
4. David Archuleta should have won American Idol
5. Drink Milk
6. Maxie and Spinelli (General Hospital) belong together

Please come up with a creative topic so I can add it to this list in the future!!!
A SPEECH TO PERSUADE
(assignment)

Speeches to persuade seek to influence the beliefs and actions of listeners and therefore supply arguments and motivations for thinking or doing as the speaker suggests. You want to strongly support your arguments (main points or issues) with up-dated and relevant facts. Utilize as many types of supporting materials, specific instances, statistics, illustrations, comparisons, etc. to create a strong case. Present a clear picture of the problem and solution for your audience.

1. **Choose a topic** that is a problem that you can both persuade and propose a plan of action for your audience to carry out in response to your persuasive message. Try to pick a topic that would fit into a policy claim to help you best fit the assigned outline.

2. **Time:** 7-9 minutes (no longer, no shorter)

3. **Grading:** 300 possible points (presentation-180, outline-75, audience and occasion analysis-30, and visual aids-15)

4. **Presentation:** Note cards with a key word outline may be brought up with you. You may write out introductions and conclusions as well as definitions and quotes. Things that need to be referred to in order to ensure accuracy.

5. **Audience and Occasion Analysis:** A complete analysis of your audience and occasion is required. This analysis should be done before you create your speech. It is to be typed and turned in with your speech outline to the instructor before your presentation. The purpose behind the audience and occasion analysis is for you to analyze and understand the people whom you are trying to persuade and motivate. By researching who your audience is, you will be able to create an appropriate persuasive speech which will hopefully meet their needs and cause them to act.

6. **Outline:** A complete sentence outline with a technical plot and bibliography is to be turned in to the instructor before you speak. The outline must be typed.

7. **Supporting Materials:** You are to utilize at least six different types of supporting materials from six different academic, print sources.

**Reminder Checklist:**
1. Topic Approved.
2. Audience and Occasion Analysis created before your speech.
3. A complete sentence outline that is typed with technical plot and bibliography.
4. At least one visual aid in speech.
5. Practice your speech……….a lot.
6. Ensure time requirements.
A PERSUASIVE SPEECH OUTLINE  
(Monroe’s Motivated Sequence)

Intro

I. Getting Attention

Body

II. Showing the Need: Describing the Problem
      (e.g. I feel/believe there is a problem with…….It is my conviction
      that…….)
   B. Overview: State the main sections or issues that you will discuss.
   C. Evidence: Facts
      1. Present statistics, testimony, illustrations, and other forms of
         support that shows the extent and seriousness of the problem.
      2. Provide explanations and illustrations to explain and clarify
         when necessary.
      3. Discuss the causes, effects, and harms that the problem creates.
      4. Make clear to the listeners how the problem directly affects
         them. Why should they be concerned about the problem? How
         could they be harmed?
   D. Meeting Objections: If necessary, when your topic is controversial,
      forestall opposition by answering any objections which might be raised
      against what you are saying. Acknowledge the other point of view.

III. Satisfying the Need: Presenting the Solution
   A. Solution Thesis Statement: State your solution(s) to the problem. Be
      creative and practical.
   B. Explain your proposal clearly. Diagrams and charts can be helpful here.
   C. Through reasoning, show how your proposed solution meets the need.
      Discuss the advantages of your solution.
   D. It has worked. Provide facts, statistics and testimony of experts to prove
      that your proposal has or will work effectively.
   E. Meeting Objections: Within your speech answer and satisfy your
      listeners’ probable objections and questions regarding your solution(s).
      Acknowledge possible weaknesses lightly, but emphasize the advantages
      of the solution which outweighs the disadvantages.

IV. Visualizing the Results: Project a picture for the audience of how conditions
    will be in the future. Present a creative illustration of the bad effects or
    disadvantages that would be experienced if the problem continues or discuss
    the good effects or advantages of your plan if carried out. Or you can utilize a
    combination of good and bad, advantages and disadvantages.

Conclusion

V. Call to Action!!
   A. Move the audience into acting. Tell them how they can help you alleviate
      the seriousness of the problem. Provide concrete instructions, for
      example, provide the name and address of your congressperson, tell them
      to boycott a product and show them what it looks like. Provide them with
B. Conclude effectively. Leave us with something lasting.

### Persuasive Topic Card

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Problem:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problem Thesis Statement:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solution Thesis Statement:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visual Aid(s):</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# A PERSUASIVE SPEECH EVALUATION FORM

Name________________________________ Visual Aid_______________________________
Topic________________________________ Aud.&Occasion Analysis___________________
Speech Time__________________________ Outline__________________________________
Performance______________________________
Grade___________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. Attention Getter</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II. Showing the Problem/Need</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>III. Satisfying the Need</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV. Visualization and Action</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>V. Voice and Language</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Delivery</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**II. Showing the Problem/Need**
- Problem Thesis Statement: Clear
- Facts demonstrate a problem exists
- Facts show the causes, effects, harms
- Of the problem
- Emotional/Logical evidence
- Evidence citation
- Provide definitions and details

**III. Satisfying the Need**
- Presents a clear solution and thesis
- Facts support plan for solution
- Deals with possible arguments
- Explanations and reasoning of solution
- Is related to the problem
- Solution is interesting
- Has or will it work?
- Provided definitions and details
- Evidence Citation

**IV. Visualization and Action**
- Negative effects if problems cont’d
- Positive effects if solved
- Visualized results of plan
- Provide specific action
- Effective concluding statement

**V. Voice and Language**
- Rate and Volume
- Vocal Variety, emotional qualities
- Stress, emphasis, pauses
- Articulation
- Word Choice and Language
- Appropriate and accurate

**VI. Delivery**
- Use of notes and preparedness
- Posture, gestures
- Eye Contact and facial expressions
- Extemporaneous/Conversational
- Rapport with Audience

**Additional Comments:** ________________________________________