

# Persuasive Speech Rough Draft

## Specific Purpose

To convince my audience that the American work week is often excessive and that they should find high-skill employment with lower than average hours.

## Central Idea

American companies are asking workers to work longer hours for the same or less pay, and those entering the workforce need to find higher-skill jobs to avoid overwork and other work-related complications.

## Introduction

Pop quiz: How many of you used to think that adults were boring? Do any of you still do? I certainly think that adults and adult life are sometimes boring, and I think the reason for this is found in that old adage, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." As adults, we're expected to spend a tremendous part of our lives working, especially here in America where the standard full-time work schedule is roughly half of our time. I think it's absurd that so many people spend so much time doing tasks that they often find menial or unfulfilling just to make ends meet. Even for those of us who love our jobs, I think our time spent at work should be driven more by our passions and projects than by the expectation that you're not a real professional unless you spend crazy hours in the office. But the sad fact is, our work futures are looking pretty bleak.

## Body

1. Attention: We work too much
  1. The average American worker now spends additional time equivalent to six extra 40-hour weeks per year on the job, when compared with the late 1960s (Schor, 1992)
  2. Not just a problem with professionals, students across the board are putting in more homework hours. (University of Phoenix, 2014)
  3. Work is a significant source of stress for Americans. (American Institute of Stress)
2. Need: Problems with work
  1. Workplace stress creates a stressed, burned out society.
  2. This creates a feedback loop of need for hard workers.
  3. Often means parents are spending less and less time at home.
  4. Japanese fathers face similar challenges, and it's destroying their family life.
3. Satisfaction: Healthy work habits
  1. Work should be about making valuable contributions to society.
  2. Work should not be about meeting basic human needs such as food and shelter.
  3. People who love their jobs will spend a lot of time working at them, but not at a flat rate per week.

4. Visualization: Spend Time With our Families and Passions
  1. An adaptable work schedule lets us spend our time where it's most needed, be that at work, with our family, or pursuing our passions.
  2. This requires more responsibility on our part.
  3. Companies breaking from the mold and seeking more than just money (Strickler, 2015)
5. Action: Chase your dream job.
  1. Not another problem that happens to other people, or that we can't change.
  2. Already a cultural push towards more flexible working locations.
  3. Especially need young people to give up the idea that a 40 hour work-week is mandatory.

## Conclusion

In the end, the cultural expectation of the work week is crushing us and our families under a burden we don't need to bear. If we're willing to let go of our addiction to metrics and timecards and let people work at the pace and in the times that are best for them, we can find a society that is infinitely more productive and satisfied. If we cannot, I worry that we'll forever be trapped as slaves to "the machine", or "the man", or whatever else we decide to call it. All work and no play doesn't just make Jack a dull boy, it also harms his health, strains his family, and literally kills children's dreams of the future. It's time we put an end to that.

## Works Cited

Schor, J. (2008). *The overworked American: The unexpected decline of leisure*. Basic books.

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