**M1 Critical Thinking & Public Speaking**

**Conviction Speech Guidelines**

***Speech Overview***

In Critical Thinking & Public Speaking, your CO grade will take the form of a Conviction Speech. This oral presentation project is designed to give students the opportunity to take a stance and convince their audience on a controversial issue of their choosing while accomplishing the language goals of the course.

Students will give their speeches individually. They will select a controversial issue, decide on where they stand, research both sides of the debate, and develop a 5-minute talk to defend their point of view.

These guidelines—along with directions given by the instructor in class—are designed to explain the expectations and provide students with guidance as they work towards their completed conviction speeches.

***What is a controversial issue?***

For the purpose of the course, your instructor will provide a list of varying problematic topics from you to choose from. To adhere to our language goals, we will focus on global issues that affect English-speaking parts of the world.

***Research***

To help provide structure to the project and aid in the accomplishment of language learning goals, students will perform research to investigate the different sides to their chosen issue and compile a list of sources. The students will then choose a side to defend.

***Speech Expectations***

Conviction Speeches **will last 5 minutes**. During this presentation, students will present their chosen topic, establish their credibility, state their thesis, share information to support their arguments, refute an opposing argument, and conclude. Students may take on a made-up role for themselves to help establish their legitimacy on the topic. Students will incorporate aspects of rhetoric, including ethos, pathos, and logos, into their speech to further convince their audience to side with them.

The presentation will need to follow the traditional structure of an oral presentation, including an introduction, main body, and conclusion. Students will:

* grab their audience’s attention
* present their topic
* explain relevant background issues
* establish their credibility
* provide a thesis
* detail a few main arguments, citing sources when applicable
* conclude

***Timeline***

The Conviction Speech Presentations will begin taking place in Week 5. Please be attentive to the date you selected to present. If you do not deliver your presentation on the scheduled day, your instructor will give you another opportunity **but deduct points** (except in the case of excused absences).

***Class Expectations***

The audience is **expected to listen actively and ask questions**.Audience members may be asked to engage in peer-to-peer evaluation.

***Helpful Reminders***

* Ensure your work is original. Plagiarism is not accepted in any form so **do not**:
  + Memorize chunks of texts that have been copy-pasted from the internet or any other source
  + Use other people’s work or presentations
  + Reuse your own work from other classes or contexts (self-plagiarism or auto-plagiarism

Plagiarism automatically results in a 0/20 and a *conseil de discipline*.

* Generative AI such as ChatGPT or similar programs may not be used at any point in the preparation of your Conviction Speech. Students are expected to do 100% of every aspect of the work, including all research and writing, for example. Use or suspected use of generative AI or AI tools will result in 0/20 for the student.
* Practice, practice, practice! Rehearse your presentation so that you **know it by heart**. Experiment with rhythm, tone, and emphasis. Be prepared and engage your audience through your eye contact, body language, hand gestures, intonation, etc.
* Students may use notecards during their presentations. Notecards are limited to **two, with twenty words maximum on each card**. You need to show the instructor your cards before you begin. Reading from your phone **is not allowed**. If students use their phones during their presentation, they will be asked to stop their presentation, and they will receive a **0/20 for the assignment.**
* Prepare a suitable outfit for your presentation! You are expected to dress formally as you are addressing an audience that you want to win over.
* Be mindful of your time limit. Points will be deducted from your score if you go over or under your 5-minute time limit.

***Grading***

The grade for the Conviction Speech is your CO grade for this class, which equals 20% of your total grade for the course.

To help you prepare for a successful speech, use the checklist below to guide you. Please note that your instructor may also announce other instructions in class in addition to the checklist below.

***Speech Outline Template***

I. Introduction

a) attention getter (AG)/’hook’

b) establish speaker’s credibility

c) discuss background issues

d) thesis:

e) preview (of main points):

II. Main Point #1:

a)

b)

<Directional Transition: Now that we know... let’s turn our attention to … >

III. Main Point #2:

a)

b)

<Directional Transition: >

IV. Main Point #3:

a)

b)

V. Conclusion:

1. Review:
2. Tie-back to AG/’hook’:
3. Final thoughts

***Checklist for the Overall Presentation***

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| --- |
| Overall Checklist |
| * Greeting * Hook * Provide an outline * Thank the audience * End with an impactful statement * Creativity of arguments * Use of ethos, pathos, logos * Citation of sources * Transitions * Cohesion * Structure * Grammar, syntax, vocabulary (appropriate style & register) * Learn speech by heart * Dress the part * Speech (intonation, enthusiasm, energy, limited notes, etc.) * Stage presence (body language, eye contact, audience interaction, etc.) |