

(5)

Jennifer is presenting a persuasive speech in Public Speaking 101 class. She is advocating student action on a matter that has high student interest on campus. You are one of her classmates and are appalled at the inaccuracy of her claims. It is evident to you - but apparently not to the majority of your classmates - that Jennifer has not adequately researched her topic. Unfortunately, she seems to be getting an enthusiastic response from the class anyway. You wonder what you should or should not do. Should you strongly and vehemently indicate your displeasure? Should you tell Jennifer that she could have easily acquired the facts had she made the least effort? Or should you say nothing, hoping that no harm will come from the speech? Would it make any difference to you if you knew that Jennifer had high anxiety and low self esteem? (from Jacksha and Pritchard, Communication Ethics)

**Moderator's Answer: As a student in the public speaking class a key part of your learning experience involves analyzing and discussing in public the work of other students in class. If you feel pressured to remain silent then you are not receiving the educational experience to which you are entitled. Furthermore, since the purpose of the course is to learn about effective public speaking you will benefit Jennifer by pointing out the respects in which her speech needs improvement, provided you do it in a way that remains within the bounds appropriate for a class discussion. Some people take criticism better than others, but no one can learn without it.**