

Advocacy Speech

100 Points

Objective: In this speech, you should take a position on a current topic that is active in a state or national forum of discourse (i.e., taxes, healthcare, infrastructure, education, international conflicts, etc.) and provide logical, well-reasoned support for that position or general claim. While there may be topics at the local level that interest you, your duty with this assignment is to find a connection to issues that impact a significant population. For example, if you're interested in local farming issues, you could consider connecting that to a larger issue such as GMOs (genetically modified organisms) or farm subsidies. This speech should be about 5 minutes long, with a 30-second grace period over and under.

Your argument presentation should have:

- an appropriate introduction
- a clear thesis (your claim)
- a brief preview of main points
- clear transitions between points
- credible evidence to support each point
- an appropriate conclusion

Once you have determined where you stand on your particular topic, you will need to support your position or general proposition with three to five reasons (main points). Each main point should be further supported and/or elaborated upon with a subpoint. The number of main points will most likely be determined by the depth or breadth of your argument, given time limits. Consequently, presenting three supporting points may be appropriate if they are substantial. Each point overall must be supported with credible evidence. For this assignment, find credible evidence by using **at least 5 different sources (all print equivalent, at least 2 peer-reviewed)** as evidence. As well, your outline **must include APA in-text citations and an APA Works Cited page**. Your presentation **must also include oral attributions (citations provided out loud) for your audience to hear and use**.

Sources should be reputable and recognized sources, such as *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and scholarly or scientific journals. You should refrain from using entertainment magazines, questionable internet sites, or other unreliable sources.

Other Key Points

1. To enhance your prowess at making and defending logical and well-reasoned arguments, stay focused on your main thesis and what you consider to be the essential supporting points.
2. To engage your audience well, think about how you motivate them to listen. What choices can you make to increase their attention and concern for the topic? How will you maintain their attention and awareness of the arguments put forth?
3. Consider language choice and style, as well as your physical presence and body movements (eye contact, gestures, etc.) to practice and enhance effective delivery techniques.
4. Make sure your note cards are key words, phrases, or sentences. **Do not read from a manuscript.**