| **Student:**  Carina |
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| **Topic:** That all schools should allow students to take unlimited mental health days |
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**My Teacher’s Observations and Feedback**

| **What was the BEST thing about my speech?** | Hook: Good rhetorical question and nice use of pathos to show that students’ mental wellbeing should be prioritized.  Your first argument ties students’ academic performance with their mental health – that students who are struggling emotionally will not be able to concentrate in class.  Your second argument relates to one’s stress levels – students who are mentally ill because of stress at home i.e. family tensions and conflicts will find it much harder to handle extra stress at school (heavy workload.)  1:40 | |
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| **What part of my speech NEEDS IMPROVEMENT?** | * Try giving impact statements to explain why it is important that UNLIMITED mental health days are provided – how will this address the concerns you highlighted? * Why isn’t providing mental health support such as counselling services at school a better option? * Try using more hand gestures! :) | |

| **Student:** Lyvia |
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| **Topic:** That all schools should allow students to take unlimited mental health days |
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**My Teacher’s Observations and Feedback**

| **What was the BEST thing about my speech?** | Strong first argument – that unlimited mental health days do not directly address the root cause of a students’ emotional struggles, nor do it alleviate their pain/ suffering  Wonderful second argument – students who are already struggling mentally will only see their conditions worsen when they are isolated from their friends and support system at school, as well as negatively affecting their self-esteem because their grades will slip. | |
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| **What part of my speech NEEDS IMPROVEMENT?** | * Instead of starting “I think… ”, provide a hook. A hook could be a rhetorical question or an anecdote. * Try making more eye contact and not rely too much on your worksheet! * Also, try using more hand gestures, do not grip your handouts so hard! :) | |

| **Student:** Anson |
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| **Topic:** That we should ban junk food advertisements. |
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**My Teacher’s Observations and Feedback**

| **What was the BEST thing about my speech?** | Good hook – A rhetorical question to show that students who are already struggling mentally will find their condition worsening if they are forced to go to school against their will.  Your central argument has to do with sleep deprivation – students who are struggling mentally are likely to suffer from insomnia (inability to fall asleep), having to get out of bed at the crack of dawn every morning is going to cause them to feel exhausted, negatively impacting their ability to learn.  Your second argument is likewise strong. Students who are struggling mentally might have a tendency to be violent/ lash out at school, becoming a danger to themselves or others. | |
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| **What part of my speech NEEDS IMPROVEMENT?** | * Please make better eye contact and make sure you are looking at your classmates, in particular, the opposition when you speak! * Please use more hand gestures, don’t grip your handouts too hard! * THink of a better conclusion – impact – why should students get UNLIMITED mental health days, not a maximum of 10 days a year? | |

| **Student:** Megan |
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| **Topic:** That all schools should allow students to take unlimited mental health days |
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**My Teacher’s Observations and Feedback**

| **What was the BEST thing about my speech?** | Good hook – You created a situation where students who skip school too often actually make them a target of bullies, because they fall behind on school work.  Strong argument – capping/restricting the mental health days to 10 days a year is more effective than giving them UNLIMITED mental health days. Directly addressing the root cause of a student’s mental health problem is more effective than giving students carte blanche.  Second strong argument – students who skip school and stay home, and not under adult supervision, will find themselves isolated and lonely. Going to school, where counselling services and a support system is present, is a far superior and effective remedy to their mental health struggles. | |
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| **What part of my speech NEEDS IMPROVEMENT?** | * Please make better eye contact, lift your chin up and look around you! Don’t hide your face! * Please use more hand gestures and not grip your handouts too hard * To say that students “could kill themselves” is too extreme. Instead, say that “students not under adult supervision can become a danger to themselves.” | |

| **Student:** Kevin |
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| **Topic:** That all schools should allow students to take unlimited mental health days |
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**My Teacher’s Observations and Feedback**

| **What was the BEST thing about my speech?** | Good hook – there are a variety of reasons as to why students are struggling mentally, one of them is being a victim of bullying.  Strong primary argument: Students who are targets of bullying will only continue to be exposed to harm if they were forced to go to school, and were not given any tools to confront the bully, or to face the threat on campus.  Excellent rebuttal – the other side suggested that students might abuse mental health days — however, ensuring there is clear communication between the school and parents can prevent that – so that students cannot fake mental health. | |
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| **What part of my speech NEEDS IMPROVEMENT?** | * Please do not laugh when giving a speech, especially when discussing a serious topic such as mental health struggles! * Please lower your handout so that you are not hiding your face, make sure your classmates can see you! * You can make better eye contact and hand gestures :) | |

| **Student:** Sophie |
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| **Topic:** That all schools should allow students to take unlimited mental health days |
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**My Teacher’s Observations and Feedback**

| **What was the BEST thing about my speech?** | Good hook – Very descriptive language to describe a scenario where students’ mental health problems became a self-fulfulling prophecy – it started off as an act, and ended up becoming an actual illness/ problem.  Strong first rebuttal – the other side argued that the students’ learning will be negatively impacted. However, students who are present at school, making an effort to focus in class is still better than having them isolate themselves at home, playing video games and brainrotting.  Another excellent rebuttal – the other side suggested that clear communication between parents and teachers can ensure that students do not abuse UNLIMITED mental health days – however, mental health problems are not as easily detected/ diagnosed as physical health problems. | |
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| **What part of my speech NEEDS IMPROVEMENT?** | * Overall, wonderful job, I don’t have too many criticisms! * Please don’t use the word “class idiot” in your speech, it is inappropriate and an insult! * You could construct stronger impact statements – If we allow this to happen in the long run, the school will see low enrolment rates and create a culture where students think they can get away with anything they want! | |