

READER RESPONSE NOTEBOOK DUE DATE: _____ **SPEECH DUE DATE:** _____

Argumentative Speech PROJECT

STEP 1: Directions for Unit Readings and Response Notebook

1. Read famous arguments and persuasive literature. Use these as inspiration and models for the persuasive speech you will give in class.
2. Keep a response notebook as you read. See the "Argumentative Reading List" handout for further directions. The purpose is to see the rhetorical methods used by the great writers and thinkers of the period, such as Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Abigail Adams, and Patrick Henry.

Special Notes: This is NOT a collaborative project. We will work together in class on some entries and you are free to discuss your ideas with others. **But you must do your own writing and typing on all the entries.** "Unauthorized collaboration" will result in a zero on the project.

STEP 2: Directions for Writing the Speech:

1. As you do the unit readings, be thinking of possible topics and looking for examples of techniques you can use.
2. Choose a topic and do some research on it. About three to five authoritative resources should be adequate.
3. Organize your research and material and write your speech.
4. Go back through your speech and "layer in" rhetorical devices. Use at least two each of the following:
 - * Rhetorical question
 - * Periodic Sentence
 - * Repetition
 - * Parallel structure
 - * Elevated or charged diction
 - * Include at least two different devices from this list of common figurative devices: 1) metaphor, 2) simile, 3) allusion, 4) analogy, 5) hyperbole, 6) understatement, 7) antithesis
5. The day of your presentation, bring **ONE COPY** of your speech. The one that comes into me must include:
 - * a completed Argumentative Speech Cover Sheet
 - * a highlighted and annotated copy of your speech
 - * a copy of your Visual Text
 - * a works cited.

Special Notes: Speeches should be between four and six minutes, or about 500 to 700 words. Points will be deducted for projects that vary from the time parameters. All students will be asked to submit their speeches to turnitin.com

HOW THE SPEECH WILL BE EVALUATED: The speech is worth 100 points.

Content (quality of argument and research; clarity of tone and purpose): 40%

Effective use of persuasive techniques and rhetorical devices: 30%

Quality of delivery (organization, presentation style, appearance & appropriate dress): 20%

Dealing with the opposing point of view /making a concession: 10%

POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR the Argumentative SPEECH

- * Select a tradition, a custom, an institution, or a stereotype that you distrust or dislike and write an argument.
- * So-called "reality shows" give a distorted view of life. Argue for or against this idea.
- * Define and argue for reasonable limits on freedom of speech.
- * Read through the editorial section in several issues of your local newspaper until you find an article containing a controlling idea with which you disagree. Counter with your own argument.
- * Children who commit heinous crimes should (or should not) be tried as adults.
- * Cell phones—etiquette
- * Car manufacturers should not be allowed to sell any car that does not get at least _____ miles per gallon.

- * Environmental issues–pro or con
- * Eminent domain issues–pro or con
- * Women in the military/in combat–pro or con
- * Draft for men/ draft for men & women
- * Mandatory civil service for all 18-year-olds
- * Students' rights & responsibilities
- * Border or immigration issues–pro and con
- * Drinking bottled water–pro or con
- * Affirmative action–pro or con
- * Parenting issues–what parents should or should not do.
- * Teaching issues–what teachers should or should not do.
- * Stereotypes in pop culture (magazines, ads, etc) and on TV–harmless or not?
- * Technology issues–downloading music, internet access, e-mail, cell phones
- * Patriotism–what is it?
- * Religious beliefs and the popular culture, separation of church and state
- * Aging population–what do we owe the elderly?
- * Sexual harassment–what is it and what should be done about it? Relate issues.
- * Plastic surgery for teens–what should (should not) be allowed?
- * Raising or lowering the legal age for drinking, driving, voting, legal adulthood
- * Homework, a necessary evil or just evil?

The best topics are those that are local or ones about which you have a particular interest. Feel free to suggest your own topic, but be sure to get it approved.

THREE BASIC APPEALS: LOGICAL (logos), EMOTIONAL (pathos), ETHICAL (ethos)

COMMON EMOTIONAL APPEALS

Security or self-preservation

Sexual attraction

Having fun, pleasure, adventure

Social acceptance/prestige

Personal gain (money, power)

Being a good person–altruism, patriotism, sense of duty

Sense of urgency/danger

Religious feelings, belief in God

LOGIC FALLACIES & TERMS (We'll discuss further in class)

1. Oversimplification–overlooking or ignoring inconsistencies or complexities in evidence
2. Hasty generalization–leaping to a conclusion on the basis of inadequate evidence
3. Begging the question–assuming the truth of a conclusion that has not been proved
4. Ignoring the question–shifting the argument away from the real issue
5. Ad hominem–attacking an opponent instead of his/her argument, personal attacks
6. Either/Or–presenting only two alternatives when choices are more numerous
7. Non sequitur–“It does not follow” (literally: not in sequence), deriving a wrong or illogical conclusion
8. Post hoc (post hoc, ergo propter hoc)–“after this, therefore because of this,” assuming that one thing caused another simply because it preceded the other
9. Reductio ad absurdum–“reduce to the absurd,”
10. Red Herring–distraction from the real issue
11. Straw man argument–opponents weakest point(s)