

AP Lang Argument / Persuasive Speech Assignment

LENGTH: 5-10 minutes

POINTS: 100 (for speech); 100 points (for final draft of outline)

VISUAL AIDS: at least one. May use posters, power point, whiteboard, etc. to illustrate. Illustrations must be legible (readable) for audience members a minimum of 10 feet away. Illustrations need to improve or broaden audience understanding of your topic and your argument

FORMAT: may use notes, outline, or memorization. Points taken off for reading speech word for word.

TOPIC: an issue that is currently in the news that may inspire controversy or at least multiple perspectives

PURPOSE/GOALS: to highlight your ability:

- ✓ to build an argument: whether to make others believe that yours is the only valid perspective, to educate, or to create a community in which others question their knowledge of the topic
- ✓ to create an introduction to draw the audience in to the topic
- ✓ to acknowledge and detail multiple perspectives on the issue/topic
- ✓ to involve the audience in your presentation
- ✓ to utilize visuals to illustrate your ideas and deepen the knowledge of your audience.
- ✓ to create a memorable conclusion

REQUIREMENTS:

This is a research-based speech.

- You must use at least four (4) credible resources. Scientific studies, interviews with credible sources, print resources that are credible (national newspapers like *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *LA Times*; magazines like *The Economist*, *Harpers*, *Scientific American*, *Time*, *Smithsonian*, *Christian Science Monitor*; NO Blogs (unless OK'd by instructor); NO online encyclopedias, although you CAN use the resources the high school pays to access: 2facts.com, AKA "Issues and Controversies", EBSCO: search.epnet.com, ask librarian or instructor for the passwords you can use to access even OFF CAMPUS).
- Include an MLA (Modern Language Association) formatted annotated bibliography (the summary only needs to be a couple of sentences).
- Credit sources IN your outline and your speech

a proposal – due Thursday (3/21):

- Use headings for each section—see example on the next page:
 - state your issue
 - what type of argument you plan to make: Rogerian, Dialectic, Rhetorical
 - what your perspective or goal is
 - what other perspectives exist

an outline— due Thursday (4/4):

- detailing the flow of your argument from introduction to conclusion, taking time to illustrate your research/current events, other perspectives, the perspective that you believe in (the way that you format and argue will depend on your audience's knowledge and even on their opinion about the topic you're discussing.)
- you will be given a sample format for the outline
- include a working bibliography/works cited with the resources that you've used to learn more about all sides of your topic

Requirements Continued on next Page

visual aids—due with speech presentation:

to be used during your speech. These might include:

- a power point with very few words and lots of pictures/graphs/etc.
- a prezi with very few words and lots of pictures or graphs
- posters
- short film sections (10-20 seconds)

On Time – you must give your speech on the date it is due, or contact me ahead of time and make other arrangements. Late speeches will receive -10% per each day they are late.

During your speech- you may use your outline, note cards, or a written speech as a guide. I don't recommend reading from a written script because unless you memorize, it is difficult to make eye contact with the audience.

PROPOSAL FORMAT:

1. use headings for each section → → → → →
2. write in complete sentences
3. cover the following (each should have its own heading and explanation)
 - a. states your issue
 - b. what type of argument you plan to make: Rogerian, Dialectic, Rhetorical
 - c. what your perspective or goal is
 - d. what other perspectives exist
4. Hand it in electronically to kclark@salida.k12.co.us

<p>Your name Date Period</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Argument Speech Proposal</p> <p>Issue: <i>Your writing goes here – explain the issue</i></p> <p>Type of Argument: <i>Rogierian, dialectic, rhetorical</i> <u>EXPLAIN</u> <i>why you chose this type of argument</i></p> <p>Your goal: <i>what do you want your audience to understand or learn, what do you want them to believe?</i></p> <p>Other perspectives: <i>What are the perspectives, evidence or opinions that might affect your argument?</i></p>
--

OUTLINE/ARGUMENT REQUIREMENTS

Outline will be graded according to these qualities:

- Position statement/thesis evident
- Introduction with “hook”
- Argument
- Refutation: identifying counterargument(s) and refuting it/them
- Concession: (up to you and topic) also identifies counterargument(s)
- Organized sequence of ideas (follow one of the types of argument we’ve studied)
- Headings and subheadings for topics and evidence. Roman numerals or letters indicating the organization.
- Evidence with sources cited (specific enough that I can understand the direction of the argument)
- Conclusion which leaves audience thinking

Questions to ask yourself when developing your introduction:

1. What is the situation that this argument responds to?
2. What elements of background or context need to be presented for this audience? Is this new information or am I just reminding them of matters they already have some familiarity with?
3. What are the principal issues involved in this argument?
4. Where do I stand on this issue?
5. What is the best way to capture and focus the audience's attention?
6. What tone should I establish?
7. What image of myself should I project?

Some Questions to Ask as You Develop Your Confirmation

1. What are the arguments that support my thesis that my audience is most likely to respond to?
2. What arguments that support my thesis is my audience *least likely* to respond to?
3. How can I demonstrate that these are valid arguments?
4. What kind of inartistic proofs does my audience respect and respond well to?
5. Where can I find the facts and testimony that will support my arguments?
6. What kinds of artistic proofs will help reinforce my position?

Some Questions to Ask as You Develop Your Concession/Refutation

1. What are the most important opposing arguments? What concessions can I make and still support my thesis adequately?
2. How can I refute opposing arguments or minimize their significance?
3. What are the possible objections to my own position?
4. What are the possible ways someone can misunderstand my own position?
5. How can I best deal with these objections and misunderstandings?

Some Questions to Ask as You Develop Your Conclusion

1. How can I best leave a strong impression of the rightness and importance of my view?
2. How can I best summarize or exemplify the most important elements of my argument?
3. What is the larger significance of the argument? What long-range implications will have the most resonance with my readers?
4. How can I bring the argument "full circle" and leave my readers satisfied with the ending of my argument?