

Rhetoric 1223: Presentation 2

Topic: “We should care about... and study....”
Type: **Identification / Inquiry**
Length: **4-5 minutes**
Date: **Oct. 24**

Proposal: **Oct. 3**
Reflection: **Pre-speech due Oct. 24**
Post-speech due Oct. 31
Evaluations: **Oct. 31**

Identifying an Issue for Inquiry

This speech is a difficult form because you are being asked to argue for the exploration into a specific issue. In other words, you are trying to persuade your company, department, or colleagues within a field that a particular question or problem is important enough to be studied. We call questions that lead to the “real” question for study the **stasis questions**.

From BYU’s Rhetoric Web Site:

Stasis names a procedure within rhetorical invention by which one would ask certain questions in order to arrive at the point at issue in the debate.

For example, you might argue that global warming is an important problem with many potential contributors. Questions: Is global warming a problem? What are the possible causes? Which causes can we study? You are setting the stage for a specific question to study. Because we must limit a study’s scope, you could suggest a study of the effects dairies have on greenhouse gas emissions. (There really is such a study underway!) Someone had to propose this study and convince the universities in Wisconsin and California to measure cow gas emissions. An issue was identified, a particular cause/effect was suggested for inquiry, and speeches were presented to grant committees.

Your goal is to guide us from a major issue towards a single question we should be asking.

Reason for the Exercise

Working from the broad to the specific is a skill we all need to develop. It requires revealing logical connections from one question to the next, guiding your audience. The question you eventually propose to study has to appeal to the audience, in this case a fictional funding committee.

You will have to place the issue in a context that matters to the audience. How can you persuade an audience that an issue matters to them, at this moment, at this place? Can you justify your choice to study a particular problem?

Planning Tips

1. Select a specific, broad issue in your field or of particular interest to you
2. Write a proposal explaining the issue, the context, and your intentions
3. Research, research, research!
 - a. At least three sources cited
 - b. No encyclopedias or wikis may be used
4. Select a single aspect of the problem to study
 - a. Why should this question be studied?
 - b. How would you study it?
5. Outline your speech carefully
6. As always, rehearse, revise, rehearse... relax

Due With Speech

- Bibliography (3-5 sources)
- All note cards