

Rhetoric 1223: Presentation 3

Topic: *Taking a Stand on...*
Type: **Persuasive**
Length: **5-7 minutes**
Date: **Nov. 21**

Proposal: **Nov. 2**
Outlines: **Topic Outline Nov. 9**
FS Outline Nov. 14
Evaluations: **Nov. 30**

Taking a Stand on an Issue

For this speech you need to select an issue of importance to you and attempt to persuade the audience to take some form of action. Issues should be serious, and ideally linked to either your career or civic involvement. Your task is to educate, and then motivate.

As we have discussed, motivation is likely the most difficult part of your task. People will claim to care about any number of issues, but do they expend time and energy trying to solve a problem or improve a situation? Educating people is not nearly as challenging as convincing them to act!

All proposals will be submitted to your peer group. Your group must be convinced the topic is current and serious. The topic should be relevant to your audience. I am asking each group member to respond to proposals online. Ask each other “why” and “how” questions.

Reasons for the Exercise

Unlike previous speeches, every member of the class will be asked to submit questions he or she felt you either did not sufficiently address. The reason for this exercise is to consider the values and motives of others. Ask yourself, can we rely too much on logic? Can emotions lead us to make bad decisions as a society? Can people or groups exploit their reputations?

This speech is an exercise in social and civic discourse. Learn to be a critical audience member without being contrarian. How can we negotiate solutions to problems without sacrificing our individual core values? Or are core values an obstacle to discourse?

Planning Tips

1. Select an issue you not only care about, but one you have done, now do, or will do something to address
2. Write a proposal explaining the issue, the context, and your intentions
 - a. Logical arguments
 - b. Ethical arguments / (Do you seem like someone we'd follow?)
 - i. Ethos depends on your “reputation” or “persona”
 - ii. Can you broaden this to a group's reputation? (e.g. Sierra Club)
 - c. Emotional arguments
3. Prepare a list of questions someone disagreeing with you would ask
 - a. Prepare an answer for these questions
 - b. Include the challenges in your speech!
4. Research, research, research!
 - a. At least three sources cited
 - b. No encyclopedias or wikis may be used
5. Outline your speech carefully
6. As always, rehearse, revise, rehearse... relax

Due With Speech

- Full-sentence outline
- *Others might disagree and ask me...*
- Bibliography (3-5 sources)
- All note cards