

# Persuasive Speeches

- ✚ To persuade people you need their attention.
- ✚ You need to convince them you are right using logic and emotion.
- ✚ Use statistics, expert opinion, examples, and emotional appeal in every point to convince your audience that you are right.
- ✚ Make sure you have a point to make and make that point as convincing as possible.
- ✚ Be sure your topic is age appropriate.
- ✚ Remember that the more controversial your topic is the more likely you are to get sites where the information may not be reliable.
- ✚ Do not use Wikipedia as your only source for a fact.
- ✚ Do use legitimate sites such as world book online.
- ✚ If it is difficult to find out who published the information you should be suspicious of the information.
- ✚ Keep track of all URL's and give credit for all information you find or use. **Do not risk plagiarism!**
- ✚ **Final copies of speeches are due February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.** Cue cards will be due at the same time.
- ✚ For further details please see the notes which were distributed in September in class.
- ✚ Final copies are typed at school, double spaced, and passed in with all the previous work including all research notes, drafts, and so forth.

- ✚ **Students must work on drafts in class or they will be required to submit another essay which will take the form of a demand writing piece.**

## **Possible Topics**

- **Freedom of expression (in the workplace)**
- **Is it ever "OK" to kill someone?**
- **Nature vs. Nurture**
- **Can you raise a genius?**
- **Is it better to be smart and unattractive or attractive and dumb? (Does it make a difference if you are male or female?)**
- **Are teenagers a benefit to a workplace (pros and cons)?**
- **How important is a first impression?**
- **What is common sense? (Do teenagers have "common sense?")**
- **Can you really change who you are?**
- **What makes a song (movie, book) great?**
- **Should censorship be allowed (when/ why)?**
- **Is education necessary?**
- **When do you stop being a "kid"?**
- **What makes someone popular?**
- **If you are rich should you have to help others who have less than you?**
- **Does right or wrong change (over time or throughout history)?**
- **Why do some people do dangerous things?**
- **When is something too dangerous?**

# Steps to Complete a Persuasive Writing Piece

1. Choose a topic.

- *Example: Does right or wrong change (over time or throughout history)?*

2. Develop a thesis statement.

Thesis Statements combine your opinion on the topic of your choice with a statement of the topic. They usually indicate how you intend to prove your opinion.

- *Example: Society changes constantly so that what is expected of people changes as well. A hundred years ago young women did not show their ankles. Three hundred years ago women and children were property. However, these are matters of law or custom and not necessarily absolute right or wrong. In fact, the basic values of all societies do not change over time or across cultures. For as long as we have recorded history certain values have withstood the shift of time and place... it is wrong to murder, steal, or lie.*

3. Determine three to five points (arguments) you can use to “prove” your opinion is correct.

*Example:*

- a) The commandments are the basic rules of our society.*
- b) Other religions and cultures have these as rules.*
- c) The legal system holds these values as well.*
- d) Plato and the doctrine of absolute truth (right/ wrong)*
- e) Universal acceptance is really the same as a definition of right or wrong.*

4. Consider what type of information would be best to prove that point (ex: statistics, expert research, quotations, examples, emotional connection, and so forth).
5. Consider counterarguments. What would a person who disagrees with you be thinking? How can you develop your point so that you could convince that person?
6. Plan your research. What kind of information do you need? What "key words" might be most useful for finding that information?
7. Keep track of all sites where you find useful info. Copy and paste URL's and info into a word document that you can use later to develop your points into strong paragraphs. Keep an additional paper copy of the URL's in case the word document is lost or deleted accidentally.
8. Keep everything to pass in at the end.