The Power of Persuasion

MATERIALS:

- The Power of Persuasion Topic Cards
- Persuasive Speech Checklist cards
- Notecard Handout with Scoring Guide
- Pencils or Pens

DESCRIPTION:

Students will attempt to persuade their table groups to believe what is written on their Power of Persuasion Topic Card....in two minutes!

DIRECTIONS:

- Print a set of the attached Power of Persuasion Topic Cards for each group.
- Print a copy of the attached Persuasive Speech Checklist cards for each student.
- Print a copy of the attached Notecard Handout with Scoring Guide
- Divide the class into small groups of about 6.
- Place a set of cards face down on each table.
- Each student draws a card from the deck. If a student does not like the topic, he/she may draw from the deck one more time. He/she must then select one of the two topics to speak on.
- Students will take about 30-40 minutes to prepare for their speeches. They may use a computer or smartphone to briefly research their topic and jot downs notes for their speeches on a notecard handout using the Persuasive Speech Checklist as a guide.
- Then, one at a time, students will have two minutes to persuade their group to believe what is written on their topic card.
- One student from each group will score the speaker using the scoring guide that is included on the Notecard Handout
- Optional: When all of the members of the group have completed their persuasive speeches, have them select the most persuasive speech from their group to present to the class.
Persuasive Speech Checklist

- State the problem. (20 seconds)
- Site examples or evidence that supports your position. (30 seconds)
- Specifically state what you think should be done about the problem. (30 seconds)
- Explain how or why this solution will solve the problem. (20 seconds)
- In one or two sentences, state exactly what you want the audience to believe or do. (20 seconds)
Persuade your group that the theory of evolution is true or untrue.

Persuade your group that there should or should not be random drug testing in the workplace.

Persuade your group that your curfew should be 1:00 am

Persuade your group that it is beneficial to take good Cornell notes.

Persuade your group that marijuana should or should not be legalized.

Persuade your group that the legal drinking age should be lowered or raised.

Persuade your group that abortion should remain legal or be outlawed.

Persuade your group that the age at which you can obtain a driver’s license should be raised or lowered.
Persuade your group that taxes should be raised or lowered in your state.

Persuade your group that doctor assisted suicide is wrong or right.

Persuade your group that welfare benefits should or should not be provided by the state.

Persuade your group that global warming is either true or false.

Persuade your group that illegal immigrants should or should not be allowed to live in your state.

Persuade your group that spanking your own child should remain legal or be outlawed.

Persuade your group that using unclaimed animals from the animal shelter is or is not okay for medical testing.

Persuade your group that there should or should not be prayer in school.
Persuade your group that one religion for the entire world would or would not be a good idea.

Persuade your group that gays should or should not have the right to marry.

Persuade your group that stem cell research is right or wrong.

Persuade your group that reading your children’s email is right or wrong.

Persuade your group that everyone should or should not be required to have health insurance.

Persuade your group that everyone should or should not be required to have car insurance.

Persuade your group that God does or does not exist.

Persuade your group that aliens from another planet do or do not exist.
### Persuasive Speech Graded On:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>My Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All 5 speech cards are fill out.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech is about 2 minutes long</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker makes eye contact with entire audience</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaks loudly, clearly, and with enthusiasm</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech includes examples or evidence to support speaker’s position</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. State the problem (20 Seconds)

2. Site examples or evidence that supports your position (30 Seconds)

3. What should be done about the problem? (30 Seconds)

4. Explain why this solution will solve the problem. (20 Seconds)

5. State what you want the audience to believe or do. (20 seconds)