

English 223/202
Becker

Sophomore speech: Nuts and Bolts 2013-2014

The assignment: compose an original piece of oratory about a topic of your choosing, which will persuade your peers to adopt your point of view (this means you need to have one). Speech topics in the past have ranged from arguments for lowering the drinking age to swearing; changing the METCO program to changing our focus as students. Basically, the more interested you are in your topic, the better your speech will be. If you're not interested in anything, now's your chance to find a passion.

Length: approx. 5 minutes. This means about 3.5 pages, typed, double spaced, depending on how quickly you speak (which will feel slower than usual).

Timetable:

Topic approval for approval: a short list, by the end of class Thur. Dec. 19
Tentative thesis due: Mon. Jan 6
Rvd. thesis paragraph (intro) + detailed outline + bibliography due Thur. Jan. 9 You may want to start drafting before then. (10 pts)
Rough drafts due: Thur. Jan. 16. You'll circle two paragraphs for feedback (one strong, one weak). (10 pts) You can expect drafts turned in on time back on Tues. Jan. 22 or Wed. Jan. 23
Revise drafts/Practice presenting and memorizing: Wed. Jan. 23-Tues. Jan. 28
Presentations: begin: Tues. Jan. 28, Wed. Jan. 29, Thur. Jan. 30, Mon. Feb. 3
Semi-finals: (in front of English teachers in the dept): Tues. Feb. 11

A note on time: This is a time sensitive assignment. I will give you feedback in a timely manner if you meet your deadlines. But because I teach two classes of sophomores, if you get behind, I can't guarantee feedback.

FAQs:

Do we have to memorize our speeches?

Basically, yes. You may use one note card with prompt points on it if you need to; however, you'll lose points if you read from the note card (and gain points if you maintain excellent eye contact). Don't worry about blanking out; someone will have a copy of your speech and will be able to prompt you if you get stuck.

What should my speech contain? Is it just like an analytical essay?

1. Your speech should have an introduction (we'll work on composing these), body paragraphs which are arranged in order of least important to most salient, and conclusion.

However, unlike a thesis essay, your speech is meant to be SPOKEN, so you may use 1st and 2nd person pronouns, humor, wit, sarcasm, etc.

2. Your speech should reflect careful research and contain accurate information. (See research sheet for details). You will hand in a bibliography with your outline, MLA format. Only one of your sources may be an internet source.

3. In addition to research, you might choose to conduct an informal survey or poll of your classmates. In order to do this, you need to gather information scientifically; just asking your friends won't work, since they'll likely all have similar ideas. You can use the blog, or distribute surveys during homeroom, to get a broader spectrum. Run your survey questions by me first.

Are any topics off limits?

No, not technically. However, keep in mind that if you alienate your audience (both me and your peers), your grade might suffer. It's okay if I happen to disagree with you; it's not okay if you make anyone in the room feel bad.. Also, it's a lot easier to spend time writing about something about which you really care, so avoid the temptation to be excessively silly/flippant.

How will we be graded?

Your outline is worth 10 points, rough draft is 10 points; your final presentation, 80 pts. **(for a total of 100 pts)**. I'll hand out the rubrics in class, before each deadline.

Whereas your draft will be assessed for content, organization, accuracy, and style, your final piece will be assessed for both all of the above, plus your oral delivery. (See rubrics, forthcoming).

If I go first (or close to first) will I receive a higher grade?

Not necessarily. You **will** have a sympathetic audience, since it's really hard to be first.

Why do we have to dress up? What should I wear?

Speech spirit! Wearing something a little more formal will help set the tone for us, as well as help you project a feeling of confidence. DO wear something you feel comfortable in (not a good time to break in those Jimmy Choos).

Who gets to go to the semi-finals?

When everyone has had a chance to go, as a class, we will vote for 2 speakers from each class to continue to the semis.. We will also vote for one alternate.

What if I don't want to go to the semi-finals?

You don't have to. However, if you want to continue on, I will work with you during a J block before the semis to help you polish your speech.

English 215

Research guide: soph. speech

Step 1: After some preliminary research, you should be able to complete a THESIS PARAGRAPH. You'll use all this information in your introduction to your speech., but you can decide how you say it, and in what order.

Question your assertion answers: (ex. Should the death penalty be legal?):

Concession (while many people think.....)

Thesis assertion: (the BEST answer to the question is...).

Reasons why your assertion is correct:

1.

2.

3.

So what? Who benefits from your argument, and why is it the BEST one?

Step 2: Find further evidence that supports each of your three reasons. After each piece of evidence, include the source # (1, 2, 3, etc). On the final page there's room for a bibliography, where you should NUMBER YOUR SOURCES AND INCLUDE FULL BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

Reason 1:

Evidence:

Reason 1 (con)

Evidence (con):

Reason 2:

Evidence:

Reason 2 (con)

Evidence (con)

Reason 3:

Evidence:

Bibliography:

Sources.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.