

Big Question: How do you write a convincing and thoughtful speech?

Identify the title for your speech.

Outline, select and organise your ideas.

Choose language / devices to have an impact on your audience.

Reflect on your speech whilst writing it and re-draft to ensure maximum impact.

Selecting a topic

1. Choose something you know a bit about and would like to research further.
2. Ensure it's something you genuinely care about.
3. Try to select something you think would also be interesting to your audience. E.g. a speech about the pros and cons of different types of paint is unlikely to engage many.

Ideas for a discursive speech:

1. Sport is the new religion
2. Miracles do happen
3. Truth and politics seldom mix.
4. We get what we deserve
5. Natural disasters are the earth's way of restoring balance
6. Exploitative advertising should be banned
7. Space aliens exist
8. Children should not be allowed mind altering drugs of any sort
9. Arranged marriages have more chance of succeeding
10. Assisted suicide should be made legal
11. Discrimination makes you stronger
12. Private education/schools promote elitism
13. Religion has no place in schools
14. Fashion cripples creativity
15. The earth is smaller today
16. Swearing has lost its shock value
17. Most illness is avoidable
18. Manners are essential
19. Allowing yourself to have fun is good for your health
20. Reincarnation is the only way to explain some experiences
21. Getting older doesn't mean becoming feeble
22. Diets do more harm than good
23. Honesty is not the best policy
24. Advances in medicine are not necessarily good for us
25. Death is not final

Setting a goal

For a **merit** or **distinction**, you need to achieve the purpose of the presentation.

What is your purpose?

- To inform?
- To get your audience to think?
- To change someone's way of thinking?

Evidence & Empathy

Writing a good persuasive speech means finding credible evidence to support your argument.

- Choose emotive language
- Choose emotive examples
- Ensure points are clearly relevant and easy to follow
- Ensure you have some intellectual evidence i.e. hard facts / statistics

Criteria

Pass	Merit	Distinction
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Express straightforward ideas, information, feelings.• Make an attempt to organise and structure the presentation.• Make an attempt to meet the needs of the audience.• Listen to questions/ feedback and provide an appropriate response in a straightforward manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Express challenging ideas, information, feelings and use a range of vocabulary.• Organise and structure the presentation clearly and appropriately to meet the needs of the audience.• Achieve the purpose of the presentation.• Listen to questions/ feedback, responding formally and in some detail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Express sophisticated ideas, information, feelings using a sophisticated repertoire of vocabulary.• Organise and structure the presentation using an effective range of strategies to engage the audience.• Achieves the purpose of the presentation.• Listens to questions/ feedback, responding perceptively and if appropriate elaborates with further ideas and information.

Powerful speech openings

1. **Quote**

Opening with a relevant quote can help set the tone for the rest of your speech.

2. **“What If” Scenario**

Asking a “what if” question invites the audience to follow your thought process.

“What if we were all honest? What would happen if we said what was on our minds, all day every day?”

3. **“Imagine” Scenario.**

It puts your audience members directly into the presentation by allowing each member to visualize an extraordinary scenario.

4. **Question**

Ask a rhetorical or literal question. When someone is posed with a question, whether an answer is called for or not, that person intuitively answers.

5. **Statistic**

Use a surprising, powerful, personalized statistic that will resonate with the audience to get your message across right away. It has the potential to trigger the audiences’ emotional appeal.

“Look to your left. Now look to your right. One of your seatmates will _____.”

“In this room, over 90 percent of us are going to _____.”