

Fall 2013 Persuasive Talk—Jack Whelan

Write Script for a Persuasive Talk

Goal: The pedagogical goal is to give you the opportunity to pull together all the elements taught this quarter about persuasion into an effective, short persuasive talk.

Task: Choose a topic below; write the script for short presentation that should take 5 minutes to read out loud (800-900 words). Assume you are speaking to an audience with a third undecided, a third pro, a third con. Your goal is to win over enough undecideds to get a majority.

Deliverable. Typed script of the talk. It should clearly state the “crux argument” before you begin your text, so I know what your rhetorical objectives are. Text of talk should follow in full-block format.

Due: In class Tuesday, 11/12.

Here are the topics. Select one:

1. Persuade the group to donate money to a charitable organization of your choice. Assume that another charitable group will be making its pitch after yours and that you have to anticipate its argument. And that the audience has to choose between you to make a \$10,000 grant.
2. You're testifying before the Seattle City Council about passing a \$200 million bond issue that will be part of a financial package that will build an NBA quality arena. Persuade the councilors sitting on the fence to support this tax.
3. Convince a group of 21 elderly people that they need adopt a specific exercise program. If at least 11 don't sign up, they can't pay for the instructor.
4. Persuade those at a town council meeting that they need to support the building of a recreation center rather than a juvenile detention center to reduce gang violence.
5. You're testifying before a Senate Committee taking testimony about gun control. The issues on the table are whether to ban assault rifles and to require background checks at gun shows. Pick one and take either side.
6. You're testifying before a Senate Committee taking testimony on certain accounting practices:
 - Should small public companies be allowed to deviate from GAAP when complying is considered excessively expensive?
 - Should the Security and Exchange Commission focus on prosecuting companies or individuals for criminal offenses?

- Should the United States adopt International Accounting Standards within the next five years?
 - Should there be a cap on executive compensation in the United States?
7. Persuade a group of art (or science, or engineering) majors to take Strategic Communications next quarter.
 8. If you have another topic you'd like to use instead of these, talk to me or email me to get a green light to do it.

Midterm Rubric—100 points total

Content

Frame & Crux Pathos Frame: If you want to succeed, you need to create awareness about your work. It's not about making money; it's about making connections with dealers and gallery owners.

Arrangement: I want you to label each part of your text so that I know when you're doing Narration, when Division, etc.

Opening: Ethos—build credibility and a sense of connection and trust

Body: Logos dominant, but not exclusively. Exposition of both problem and solution.

- Narration: establish the motivating problem.
- Division: solution options—solutions conceptually framed.
- Proof: prove why your solution is best (primary & secondary benefits)
- Prolepsis: anticipate and refute your opponents' arguments.

Close: Pathos/Synthesis

Clarity/Correctness

Sentence Style

- decorum: tone, mood, appropriate pathos/ethos
- vividness/concreteness: examples, stories
- ornament: figures of speech, metaphors, humor

Correctness

- proper language: usage, mechanics, clarity, fluency