

## Fall 2014 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. Accounting concentration students: you are limited to topics 6, 7, and 8.

**Deliverable.** Typed script of the talk. It should clearly define the frame and 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 Day 14 (11/13)

Here are the topics. Select one:

1. Persuade the group to donate money to a charitable organization of your choice. Assume that you and another group are finalists for winning a \$10K grant.. You are both making a final presentation to pitch for your charitable organization.
2. Convince a group of 21 elderly people at a senior housing complex like Merrill Gardens that they need adopt a specific exercise program. If at least 11 don't sign up, they can't pay for the instructor.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Persuade a group of art (or science, or engineering) majors to take Strategic Communications next quarter.
6. 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.
7. Persuade the Securities and Exchange Commission that it should focus on punishing individual managers who have committed crimes rather than

levying fines against the companies where the managers work.

8. You're testifying before the Washington State Senate about passing an \$8 billion dollar tax break for Boeing if they build their next airplane in Washington State. Persuade the senators that this is a good deal for the citizens of Washington State.
9. 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:** (Read JH chapter 25) 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:** Narration has a pathos focus, but Division and Proof are more logos centered. Prolepsis? It depends.

- 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