

Autumn 2011 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. Use all the resources in the books, on the website, coursepak, and your class notes to help you create a script that will show me what level of mastery you have attained in working with these tools

Task: Choose a topic below; write the script for short presentation that should take 5 minutes to read out loud. Assume you are speaking to an audience with 21 people in it with about seven undecided, six or seven against, and seven sympathetic. Your goal is to get at least eleven positive votes or action responses.

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, 11/15

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 regarding passing a tax that will be part of a financial package that will build and NBA quality arena. Persuade the councilors sitting on the fence to support this tax.
3. Convince a group of elderly people that they need adopt a specific exercise program. If at least eleven don't sign up, then they can't pay for the instructor. Problem is that the time for session is right during Oprah.
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. Persuade a group of art (or science, or engineering) majors to take BCMU next quarter.
6. If you have another topic you'd like to use instead of these, email me to get a green light to do it.

Midterm Rubric—100 points total

Content 60 points

Crux Argument: (10 points) This is basically your motivating problem. That's the crux or heart of your argument. You have to make your audience feel it. Everything else is secondary.

Arrangement: (50 points) 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 40 points

Sentence Style (30 points)

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

Correctness (10 points)

- proper language: usage, mechanics, clarity, fluency