

## Persuasive Speech Topics

Directions: Students are advised to develop their own persuasive speech topic in order to speak passionately. However, students might also consider the topics listed below.

1. Should (or should not) P.E. be a graded class?
2. Should (or should not) senior citizens get a discount?
3. Should (or should not) smoking cigarettes have been banned in public places? Is it an infringement on people's rights to ban smoking?
4. What popular figure, either in the media or Hollywood, has made the greatest positive influence on your generation? Explain.
5. Should (or should not) teenagers get jobs while in high school? If so, how long should they work per week and what types of jobs should they get? Why is it important to work? If not, why not?
6. Are performance-enhancing drugs in sports really a problem? If so, does there need to be stricter regulations? Propose a solution.
7. Should (or should not) cities have a mandated curfew for minors? Why or why not?
8. Should (or should not) cell phone use in cars be banned statewide?
9. Should (or should not) mothers stay at home?
10. Should (or should not) priests be allowed to marry?
11. Should (or should not) girls be allowed to play football or participate in wrestling?
12. Should (or should not) parents be held legally responsible for their children's actions?
13. Should (or should not) tanning beds be outlawed?
14. Does the media influence societal stereotypes or does it simply state the truth?
15. Should (or should not) immigration into the U.S. be restricted?
16. Should (or should not) every automobile driver be required to take a new driver's test every three years?
17. Is Wikipedia a reliable source? If so, why should educators accept it now as an academic source? If not, why not?
18. Which is better: PC or Mac?
19. Despite the uniform policy at Saint Viator High School, is there a social need for students to buy brand names in order to be accepted?
20. Why is or isn't private school worth the cost of tuition?
21. What sport is the best at building team spirit? Why?

## Persuasive Speech Assignment Details

Everyone has an opinion on a controversial issue or compelling topic. In your persuasive speech, you will convince your listeners to agree with your opinion, and perhaps even inspire them to take some specific action.

Use the following format for your **2 to 2 1/2 minute speech**:

- I. Introduction
  - a. Attention getter
  - b. Clearly state your position on the issue
  - c. Thesis statement
    - i. Give a thesis statement point.
    - ii. Give a thesis statement point.
    - iii. Give a thesis statement point.
- II. Body (**Note: This should be the strongest and longest part of your speech**)
  - a. Reason #1: "I believe this because..."
    - i. Use a detailed example or memorable statistic to support your thesis point.
    - ii. Warrant your support: add a statement, which **clearly** explains the connection between your support and thesis.
  - b. Reason #2
    - i. Use a detailed example or memorable statistic to support your thesis point.
    - ii. Warrant your support: add a statement, which **clearly** explains the connection between your support and thesis.
  - c. Reason #3
    - i. Use a detailed example or memorable statistic to support your thesis point.
    - ii. Warrant your support: add a statement, which **clearly** explains the connection between your support and thesis.
- III. Concession
  - a. Briefly explain the arguments on the other side of the issue.
  - b. If you can, rebuttal or respond to these issues to strengthen your own argument.
- IV. Conclusion
  - a. Restate your thesis
  - b. Appeal one more time for listeners to agree with your opinion
  - c. Call them to some kind of action, if appropriate
  - d. End on a strong finishing note to make your speech unique and memorable.

**NOTE: You will be using an outline for this speech.** All parts of the outline must be written in phrases. However, if you would like to use a fact or statistic, you may write only that fact or statistic in complete sentences. You also must cite the fact or statistic. For example: "9 out of 10 dentists recommend Crest" according to the American Dental Association on [www.ada.com](http://www.ada.com). If you have sentences written on the outline, you will not be allowed to use the outline. Mrs. Anzalone will collect this outline directly after the student gives the speech.

**Persuasive Speech Rubric**  
**Mrs. Anzalone**

**SPEAKER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOPIC:** \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>4 points</b>	<b>3 points</b>	<b>2 points</b>	<b>1 point</b>
<b><u>CONTENT:</u></b>				
<b>Introduction</b>				
<b>Attention-getting device</b>	Interesting	Average	Weak	None
<b>Specific purpose statement</b>	Complete	Unclear	-----	None
<b>Three Point Thesis</b>	Complete	Vague	Incomplete	None
<b>Body of the Speech</b>				
<b>Organization/transitions</b>	Excellent	Adequate	Confusing	None
<b>Details to support thesis</b>	Strong	Adequate	Weak	None
<b>Concession/Rebuttal</b>	Strong	Adequate	Weak	None
<b>Ethos</b>	Strong	Adequate	Weak	None
<b>Pathos</b>	<b>Strong</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Weak</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Logos</b>	Strong	Adequate	Weak	None
<b>Conclusion</b>				
<b>Summary</b>	Creative	Adequate	Weak	None
<b>Concluding appeal</b>	Related to	Adequate	Weak	None
<b><u>DELIVERY</u></b>				
<b>Volume</b>	Excellent	Good	Poor	-----
<b>Eye Contact</b>	Consistent	Sometimes	Rare	None
<b>Rate</b>	Perfect	Fast	Slow	-----
<b>Articulation</b> ( <i>ums, mumbling</i> )	Great	Average	Weak	-----
<b>Body Language/Poise</b>	Comfortable	Average	Needs Work	-----
<b>Gesture/Facial Expressions</b>	Above	Adequate	Some	None
<b>Time:</b> _____	2 – 2 1/2 min.	-----	-----	Below or Above

**TOTAL POINTS:** \_\_\_\_\_/72