

Lesson Name : 10

Lesson Title : Debatable Topic Speech: Writing the Speech

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

Task Id : 53046496

Course Id : 15020



### Essential Instruction

In this lesson, you will continue to work on a project in which you give a short speech defending your position on a particular topic. This project has three steps. Each step corresponds to a lesson in your eCourse. The steps are:

Step 1: Complete a questionnaire in which you express your opinions about debatable topics, and then interview others to gather their opinions and ideas.

Step 2: Choose one of the debatable topics from the questionnaire and develop a draft of a speech.

Step 3: Give a short speech defending your opinion on the debatable topic.

In this lesson, you will complete step 2 of the project.

### Step 2 Overview

You previously completed the two sections of the [debatable statements questionnaire](#). You should open this completed questionnaire to use as reference as you work on this lesson.

In this lesson, you will write a draft of your speech. You'll turn in this draft as the assessment for this lesson. A draft is a chance to get your ideas down on paper and receive feedback from your teacher about anything that you may need to correct before turning in your final project. It doesn't have to be perfect. You may find that you have a few awkward sentences, some unclear supporting points, or a weak conclusion. In a draft, that's okay. You're turning it in so your teacher can explain how to fix these things. That way, you can revise, edit, and polish your work before you turn in your final product, which will be graded according to the [final project rubric](#).

Because the assignment for this lesson is a draft rather than the final product, you will receive a completion grade for your work. If you do the work, you will get full credit.

Make sure to do the following things to get credit for your draft:

1. Write a complete draft of your speech. It must be at least 500 words.
2. Clearly identify your position on one of the debatable statements from the questionnaire.

If you do these two things, you will receive full credit. Remember, though, that when you write your final draft,

you will need to meet all of the requirements in the rubric in order to receive full points.

## Getting Started

Before you pick your topic for this speech or begin to plan your draft, you should make sure that you understand the structure of the speech. Your speech will follow this structure:

1. Introduce your topic, making sure to clearly identify your position.
2. Provide at least three key pieces of supporting evidence for your position.
3. Acknowledge and refute at least one counterargument (an argument that opposes your position).
4. Wrap up your speech with a clear, inspiring conclusion.

Although your speech will obviously begin with the introduction and end with the conclusion, the organization of your evidence and counterargument will depend on the way you want to present your topic. You will learn more about organizing this information later in the lesson.

For now, make sure that you understand this basic structure. It will help you decide which debatable statement you will discuss in your speech.

## Choosing a Topic

The topic of your speech must be your opinion about one of the five debatable statements from the questionnaire that you previously completed. These statements are:

1. Human nature is inherently good.
2. Without laws or rules, civilization would not exist.
3. People wear masks to hide their true selves from the world.
4. People are controlled by fear.
5. Wisdom is the most important quality of an effective leader.

When choosing your topic, there are several things that you should consider. Look at the list of questions below. Think about these questions and then reexamine the questionnaire that you completed in the previous lesson.

1. Do you have three pieces of evidence to support your opinion? Look at the explanation you gave on your questionnaire, as well as the explanations given by the people you interviewed who agree with you. Can you identify three distinct pieces of evidence that support your opinion?
2. Do you have at least one counterargument that you feel you could refute? Look at the explanations that people who hold the opposite opinion gave you. Is there a piece of evidence or support that they gave that you could explain and then disprove?
3. Do you have a strong opinion about this topic? Usually it is easier to talk about something you feel strongly about than something you don't care about. While this is not a requirement for choosing a topic, it is something to consider.

Does any statement in particular in the questionnaire jump out at you as one that meets these requirements for a good topic? Choose the statement that you think will work best for your speech.

## Writing the Draft

Once you have chosen a topic, you can begin to work on your draft. This section of the lesson will break down

the speech and provide tips on how to tackle each component. You may find that it will help to read through this entire section of the lesson, take notes, and complete an outline before you begin to write the draft. You should use the process that works best for you.

## Body of the Speech

Wait. What happened to the introduction? The introduction goes at the beginning of the speech, doesn't it?

If that was your first thought, you are correct. Your speech will begin with an introduction. However, when you write a speech or an essay, you will often find that it is easier to begin with the body and then go back and add the introduction to the beginning. The introduction maps out the rest of the speech, so it will be easier to write the map once you've already written the speech.

To start writing, create an overview of the body of the speech. This is the bulk of your speech, and it is where you will provide your supporting evidence as well as introduce and refute your counterarguments.

The first thing to consider when beginning the body of your speech is how you will organize your information. For this speech, it is recommended that you use the organizational pattern that follows.

Organizational Step	Explanation
Step 1: First piece of supporting evidence	State the first piece of evidence that supports your claim.
Step 2: Explain supporting evidence	Explain your first piece of supporting evidence. Make sure to clearly state how it proves or supports your claim.
Step 3: Second piece of supporting evidence	State the second piece of evidence that supports your claim.
Step 4: Explain supporting evidence	Explain your second piece of supporting evidence. Make sure to clearly state how it proves or supports your claim.
Step 5: Third piece of supporting evidence	State the third piece of evidence that supports your claim.
Step 6: Explain supporting evidence	Explain your third piece of supporting evidence. Make sure to clearly state how it proves or supports your claim.
Step 7: Introduce counterargument	State an argument that opposes your claim (this is when you consider an opinion that is the opposite of yours). You should state this claim fairly, making sure to acknowledge the other side in a respectful way.
Step 8: Refute counterargument	Respond to the counterargument by providing evidence that disagrees with that claim. In other words, provide support to show your audience why they should not believe the counterargument.

This organizational strategy is commonly used for persuasive speeches and essays, and using it will ensure you meet the requirements for this assignment (including three pieces of supporting evidence and at least one

counterargument). You still need to consider the order in which you will present each piece of your supporting evidence, but this will give you a good starting place for organization.

You may find that it helps to plan out these components of the body of the speech before writing your draft. If you like, you can use this [chart](#) to organize the body.

Although organization is often the most difficult part of writing the body of a speech, there are other things that you should consider as well. In addition to a strong organizational strategy for the body, you should also make sure to do the following:

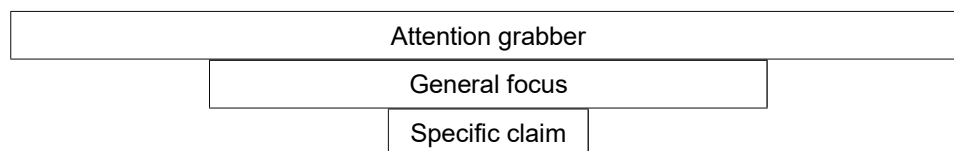
1. Present the strongest evidence to support your claim.
2. Avoid repetition. If you find that two pieces of your supporting evidence sound the same, scrap one and come up with another. Make sure you vary your sentence structure so your writing doesn't sound choppy or monotonous.
3. Use transitions to move smoothly from one point to the next.
4. Consider your word choice. Use language that is engaging and gets your point across in a clear way. Think about the tone you want to set when you are speaking and choose words that help convey that tone.

You may not do all of this perfectly in this draft of your speech, but you should make your best attempt.

## Introduction

Now that you have a better idea of what you will put in the body of the speech, you can back up and look at the introduction. Remember, even though you are reading about this component second, it should be the first section of your speech.

Typically, you should think of an introduction as an inverted triangle. Begin with the broad subject and narrow down to your main focus or claim for the speech.



To do this, you should make sure that you understand these three components of the introduction. The first and broadest is the attention grabber. As its name implies, the attention grabber should grab the listener's attention. However, it is just as important that the attention grabber is relevant to the speech and ties in with the rest of the introduction. For example, if you decide that you want to begin your speech by quoting Mahatma Gandhi, make sure that the quotation that you choose is relevant and that you can use it to transition into the rest of your introduction.

You might choose from any of these types of attention grabbers when writing the introduction of your speech:

- Quotation
- Statistic
- Thought-provoking question
- Anecdote (a brief story)
- Controversial statement

Begin the introduction with an attention grabber and then transition into discussing the general focus of your

speech. Again, make sure that these two ideas are related. Your introduction should be smooth and flow naturally.

The final component of the introduction is the specific claim. After you grab the audience's attention and give them a general idea of the focus, state your specific claim. This is also known as a thesis statement. In this case, your claim is your opinion on the topic you chose. Try to state this in a way that does not begin with the words *I agree* or *I disagree* or any variation, such as *in my opinion*. Look at the example that follows to see how to write a claim for the topic *Wisdom is the most important quality of an effective leader*.

<b>Wisdom is the most important quality of an effective leader.</b>	
<b>Agree Claim</b>	<b>Disagree Claim</b>
Although good leaders have many qualities, wisdom is the most important; it is essential for an effective leader.	While wisdom is an important quality for a leader to have, other qualities, such as a commanding presence and good decision-making skills, are more essential to be effective.

As you can see, both of these statements clearly state the speaker's claim without using the words *I agree*, *I disagree*, or *in my opinion*. Try to model your claim in this manner when you write your introduction.

## Conclusion

Now that you know more about writing the introduction and body of this speech, you can tackle the conclusion. Some people consider the conclusion to be the most difficult part of a speech or paper, but once you understand the function of the conclusion, you may find that it becomes easier to write.

One mistake that people make with the conclusion is to simply restate their main points in slightly different words. While your conclusion is a place to sum everything up, it is just as important to leave a final impression on your reader. End with a bang rather than a fizzle.

For a persuasive speech like this one, consider including the following things in your conclusion:

1. A short summary of your claim and your most important points
2. A statement reminding the reader why your claim is correct or important, and why the reader should align with that claim
3. A call for action or overview of the bigger implications of your claim

For instance, say you are writing in agreement with the topic *Wisdom is the most important quality of an effective leader*. You could begin your conclusion by restating your claim and supporting points, and then remind the audience of some reasons they should agree with your claim. However, instead of ending with this summary, go one step further and provide the audience with a call to action. For this topic, a call to action might be as follows: *The next time you are asked to choose a leader, make sure to consider the candidate's wisdom and how they can use their experience and intelligence to effect change.*

By ending your speech in this way, you not only remind the audience of your argument, but you also show them a way that they can take action to support your claim.

## Final Tips

Now that you have a better idea of the components of this speech, you can begin to write your draft.

Remember, your speech should be organized as follows: introduction (one paragraph), body (multiple paragraphs), and conclusion (one paragraph).

After you complete the draft, make sure to read through it one more time to check the flow of the speech. You may find it helpful to do this aloud, since you will deliver this speech as the final part of this project. When you are satisfied with your work, you are ready to turn it in for the assessment.

Remember, your teacher will be looking for the following:

1. You wrote a complete draft of your speech. It must be at least 500 words. (A rule of thumb: in 12 point Times New Roman font, 500 words is about 2 pages double-spaced.)
2. You clearly identified your position on one of the debatable statements from the questionnaire.

If you have any questions about the assignment, you should contact your teacher.