

Name _____ Period _____

Brave New World

Chapters One – Three

Speaking and Listening Focus: Problem-Solution Speech

Huxley presents a world where technology is used to make life better. While you may or may not agree with the “modern” society’s choices presented in the novel, there are definitely areas where our “pre-modern” society could use some help. For this activity, you will choose a problem or issue that is important to you and present a solution in a speech.

Part I: Identifying an Issue

Remember that the issue you will speak about should be something you are passionate about. To find your passion for a problem, you need to brainstorm what “bugs” you.

1. Set a timer for 7 minutes. Begin with a blank piece of paper and a pen, and freewrite about all of the problems you see in the world. Look to your neighborhood, your city, your country, and the global issues that concern you. When you freewrite, you do not concern yourself with proper grammar, spelling, or even sense. You just write until time is up.
2. Reread what you have written. Circle or put a star by interesting or important points.
3. Use your freewrite and your review to choose an issue that “bugs” you.

Part II: Researching Your Topic

Since you are writing a problem-solution speech, it is very important that you choose a topic you know something about. Even then, you will want to collect a little more information. Research your problem and the possible solutions. Be sure to keep good records of your sources, because you will turn them in with your speech.

Part III: Writing Your Speech

Your speech should be no more than 5 minutes long. Follow this outline, or use one your teacher gives you.

1. Introduction
2. Problem Background
3. Proposed Solution
4. Conclusion

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Problem-Solution Speech Outline

- I. Introduction (30 seconds- 1 minute)
 - A. Hook: Grab your audience’s attention with a catchy but relevant beginning.
 - B. Thesis: State your proposed problem and solution.
 - C. Preview: Give a short summary of your arguments.

- II. Problem Background (1-1.5 minutes)
 - A. Problem Statement: State your problem in one succinct and clear statement.
 - B. Explanation: Discuss the problem in detail.
 - C. Evidence: Support the fact that this is a real problem.
 - D. Expert Quotation: Find someone who believes as you do.
 - E. Concluding sentence: Summarize the problem’s background.

- III. Proposed Solution (1-1.5 minutes)
 - A. Solution Statement: State your solution in one succinct and clear statement.
 - B. Explanation: Discuss the solution in detail.
 - C. Evidence: Support the fact that this is a real solution.
 - D. Expert Quotation: Find someone who believes as you do.
 - E. Concluding sentence: Summarize your solution.

- IV. Conclusion (30 seconds- 1 minute)
 - A. Return to Hook: Retrace your steps by returning to the beginning and reminding your audience of your hook.
 - B. Thesis: State your proposed problem and solution.
 - C. Review: Give a short summary of your arguments.
 - D. Concluding Statement: Give a meaningful concluding thought to your speech.

Part IV: Evaluating Other Speakers

In addition to giving your own speech, you will listen to classmates give theirs. Choose at least one of your classmates for whom you will complete the Speech Evaluation. Your teacher may direct you to evaluate all or just some of your classmates’ speeches.

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Problem-Solution Speech Evaluation

Directions: Evaluate your classmate's speech by answering the questions below on a separate sheet of paper for each person.

1. Name of Speaker _____
2. What is the speaker's main claim?
3. What was the purpose of this particular speech?
4. After hearing the speech, what word could best describe the tone of the speech?
5. What did the speaker leave out that you feel should have been included?
6. Why do you think the speaker chose to leave out this information?
7. What elements of rhetoric did the speaker use?
8. What was the audience for this speech, based upon the speaker's points of emphasis and tone?
9. What was your favorite part of the speech?
10. What area of the speech most needs improvement?
11. After hearing the speech, do you want to know more about this topic? Explain why or why not.