

Persuasive Speech Outline

(50 points)

You'll be delivering a Persuasive Speech on the topic of your choosing. Pick a topic that:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Can be made interesting for the class | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Is big enough for _____ minutes of info. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Is debatable & has opposing sides | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Is school appropriate |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Can be researched & supported w/ <u>FACTS</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Can apply ethos and/or pathos, as well |

Suggestion: Avoid divisive topics like abortion or gun control. They've all been done 9,807 times; your audience will thank you!

The topic of your speech is: (1 point) Christmas trees (Artificial vs. Real)

The position you will take is: (2 points) Everyone should buy a live Christmas tree, instead of using an artificial tree.

What is the first major factual reason you hope to use to prove your point? (2 points)

Buying live-cut trees every year is actually better for the environment than buying & re-using an artificial tree each year.

What FACTS can you use to prove that point? (Max 10 points; find great facts!)

What would your opposition say? (2 point)

FACT:	SOURCE:
Fake trees are almost always made of PVC, which is a type of plastic that contains petroleum, & is harmful to kids/environment	www.environment.about.com
More than 85% of fake trees are made in China; just shipping them here hurts the environment.	www.christmastree.org/faketrees.cfm
Real trees biodegrade or are used for compost or mulch by many towns. Even if you keep your fake tree for a decade, it will then sit in a landfill for the next few thousand years, since PVC doesn't biodegrade.	Time Magazine, Dec. 8, 2008, O Christmas Tree, by Bryan Walsh

Killing a tree every year is contributing to deforestation—while one artificial tree would last for a decade or more!
How would you prove your opposition wrong? (3 points)

Since trees are mostly raised on farms, buying a tree is a lot more like cutting down a stalk of corn than it is like cutting a tree from the forest. Christmas trees are a renewable resource, and are replanted every year by the farmer.

What is the second major factual reason you hope to use to prove your point? (2 points)

Buying live-cut trees every year is also better for the economy than buying & re-using an artificial tree each year.

What FACTS can you use to prove that point? (Max 10 points: find great facts!)

What would your opposition say? (2 point)

FACTS:	SOURCE:
People in the U.S. buy \$58 billion worth of stuff from other countries each year! Buying goods at home (Growing Christmas trees nearby, rather than making them in China) would create jobs and help our economy.	www.globalpolitician.com
Pennsylvania has more Christmas tree farms than any other state—so your purchase would stay nearby!	www.livescience.com

Over the long run, artificial trees are cheaper and save you money, ~~How would you prove your opposition buying?~~ every year. (2 points)

That's true, but there are a lot of things an artificial tree doesn't include, such as the smell of a real tree, or the fact that you're helping the environment and helping local farmers. It's worth the small extra cost.

DON'T LIMIT YOURSELF TO THIS OUTLINE! (5 points)

You may need more facts, and you definitely need a personal story or human connection.

Develop an attention-grabbing introduction (Hook). Write the first 3 sentences of your speech, below: (4 points)

Imagine Christmas morning at your house. Your family is there—probably in pajamas. And there are tons of gifts around the tree. Everyone is happy. But if you have an artificial tree, not everyone is actually happy. The farmer who lost his job isn't. And the kids who have to live with the environmental problems caused by that tree won't be very happy in the future...

Develop a memorable conclusion. Now, write the last 2-3 sentences of your speech: (4 points)

Christmas is all about giving, and it's all about traditions. When you use an artificial tree, you're taking —from the local farmer, from the environment, and from the good smells & good feelings that having a live tree provides. So, I hope that in the future, you'll make a real, live Christmas tree part of your Christmas tradition. Giving farmers jobs, giving the environment a chance, and giving the warmth of a live tree is a tradition you can be proud of for many Christmases to come.

NAME: _____ PD. _____ DATE: _____

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| _____ 2. Is debatable & has opposing sides | _____ 5. Is school appropriate |
| _____ 3. Can be researched & supported w/ <u>FACTS</u> | _____ 6. You can get behind and care about |

Suggestion: Avoid divisive topics like abortion or gun control. They've all been done 9,807 times; your audience will thank you!

The topic of your speech is: (1 point) _____

The position you will take is: (2 points) _____

What is the first major factual reason you hope to use to prove your point? (2 points)

What FACTS can you use to prove that point? (Max 10 points; find great facts!)

What would your opposition say? (2 point)

FACTS:	SOURCE:

How would you prove your opposition wrong? (3 points)

What is the second major factual reason you hope to use to prove your point? (2 points)

What FACTS can you use to prove that point? (Max 10 points; find great facts)

What would your opposition say? (2 point)

FACTS:	SOURCE:

How would you prove your opposition wrong? (3 points)

DON'T LIMIT YOURSELF TO THIS OUTLINE: For 5 whole points, re-write the following sentences: *For a persuasive speech, I need facts and personal experiences or ideas. So, as I plan my speech, I'll add sections based on personal stories or examples, in addition to these facts and others I find.*

Develop an attention-grabbing introduction. Now, write the first 3 sentences of your speech: (4 points)

Develop a memorable conclusion. Now, write the last 2-3 sentences of your speech: (4 points)