

Values Speech

For your first graded public speech, you may talk about a person, place, object, or activity that you value. Each of these will be discussed in class, but below, you will find some general information on the major differences between each type of talk.

Time: 3-5 minutes (Going over or under time will significantly affect your grade.)

Assignment: If you plan to prepare a speech about a **person**, you may select a person living or dead, real or fictitious, famous or not famous. Develop a speech that explains why you value this person. If you pick a famous person, do not just present researched evidence about the person. Instead, you should focus on why YOU value this person. Students in the past have spoken about a parent, sibling, best friend, teacher, rabbi, or a variety of famous people such as Susan B. Anthony or Michael Jordan.

If you decide to prepare a speech about a **place**, choose a place that is significant to you, such as a place you would want to visit, the place you grew up, where you would like to live, or a place experiencing a war. You should speak about why you value this place.

If you decide to speak about an **object**, pick one that has special meaning to you, such as the one you use every day, one that you collect, one that was a gift, one that symbolizes a relationship you have with someone else, something that represents a significant accomplishment, or a pet. You should speak about why you value this object.

If you decide to speak about an **activity**, focus on one that brings you satisfaction or challenge. This could include a sport, your work, a volunteer experience, or a hobby. Your speech should be about why you value this activity.

Grading Criteria:

- Being with an introduction that gains attention and previews the main points.
- Develop a body that makes a serious point while clearly explaining **why you value** the person/place/object/activity
- Craft a conclusion that reviews ideas and creates a clear, satisfying ending.
- Strive to make your overall message interesting and energetically delivered.
- Be sure you have practiced the entire speech several times aloud and all the way through without stopping.
- You should be using an extemporaneous delivery (keywords on your notes).
- You should not practice your speech by reading it.

Procedures:

- Make sure your related materials are submitted to Canvas. Note: Your speaking notes are not a manuscript.
- You will complete one peer review during speeches.
- Outside of class, watch the speech and write a written reflection in narrative form.

Values Speech Rubric

Speaker: _____

Voice: _____ (0-5)

- _____ Articulated/pronounced words clearly
- _____ Used appropriate rate and pauses
- _____ Avoided verbal fillers such as “you know, like, and ah”
- _____ Used vocal variety (fluctuation, emphasis, energy) and enthusiasm for the topic
- _____ Demonstrated confident volume and vocal quality (pitch, inflection)

Eye Contact: _____ (0-5)

- _____ Established initial eye contact
- _____ Looked at all members of the audience throughout the speech
- _____ Appropriately referred to notes
- _____ Avoided looking at walls, floor, ceiling, window
- _____ Avoided distracting eye movements

Physical Delivery: _____ (0-5)

- _____ Avoided distracting mannerisms
- _____ Appeared comfortable yet poised and alert
- _____ Avoided leaning, shifting, or poor posture
- _____ Used gestures to add emphasis and understanding to the topic
- _____ Facial expressions communicated interest and enthusiasm for the topic

Organization: _____ (0-5)

- _____ Introduction gained attention and led into the speech
- _____ Main points were clearly stated
- _____ Content organization pattern was well planned and easy to follow
- _____ Conclusion ended the speech appropriately
- _____ Demonstrated effective preparation

Content: _____ (0-5)

- _____ Language was accurate, clear, and appropriate
- _____ Content was adapted to the audience
- _____ Content was fully developed
- _____ Met assignment and ethical standards
- _____ Topic proved challenging and enhanced audience knowledge

Time (3-5 minutes): _____

Total: _____ (0-25)

Values Speech Outline Template

General Purpose: To Inform
Specific Purpose: To inform my audience about three reasons why I value (a person, place, object, or activity)
Central Idea: Three reasons why I value (a person, place, object, or activity) are... (list three reasons here).

INTRODUCTION

- I.
- II.
- III.

Transition:

BODY

- I.
 - A.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - B.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - C.
 - 1.
 - 2.

Transition:

- II.
 - A.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - B.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - C.
 - 1.
 - 2.

Transition:

III.

A.

1.

2.

B.

1.

2.

C.

1.

2.

CONCLUSION

I.

II.

III.

Values Speech Example - School

General Purpose: To Inform
Specific Purpose: To inform my audience about three reasons why I value school
Central Idea: Three reasons why I value school are my family has a long tradition of being educator, I believe education is the key to a successful future, and the school provides a home to new ideas that can change the world.

INTRODUCTION

- I. "Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world," is a quote by South African politician and activist Nelson Mandela who fought for social justice and freedom for his people throughout his life.
- II. I believe that through school, we can truly live out Nelson Mandela's ideas and make a change both in ourselves and in our communities by educating ourselves and embracing school.
- III. Today, I'll be sharing with you three reasons why I value school, which are the fact that my whole family is involved in education, I believe education is the key to a successful future, and school provides a home to new ideas that really can change the world.

..

Transition: So let's begin in my formative years when I would take trips to school with my mom and help her set up bulletin boards and take her math books in her classroom at Cooper Middle School in Buffalo Grove.

BODY

- I. Coming from a family of educators, it was only natural that I would find myself loving school and being a part of the education system.
 - A. My mother is a principal and has been in education her entire career.
 1. School is a place where she spends a lot of time because she believes in education.
 2. Watching her love her school and serve it in many capacities has ingrained in me from a young age that school is a positive place where people come together to improve young people's lives.
 - B. My father, although not a teacher, taught in many ways.
 1. For years, my dad was on the board for Harper College and taught business law at night for what he called fun. He spent one year at Harper College, saved money, and became very successful in hotel management.
 2. He attributes his success in large part due to his experiences at Harper and loved of giving back by teaching.

3. He also spends a great deal of time helping me coach the speech team and volunteering at my school.
- C. The number of aunts, uncles, and siblings who are also in education shows me that this is not only my immediate family's greatest value but that school is an important place for all my family members.
 1. Many of my aunts and uncles are also teachers. While we all teach different ages and subject matters, I truly enjoy learning from their school stories and have a deeper value for the educational process because of their passion for their students and years of service to the schools in which they teach.
 2. While many of my cousins are not teachers, they have all earned higher degrees, have pursued learning in their own lives, and continue to support me in my own academic pursuits.

Transition: Having spent most of my early memories in school, I have been taught that school is a place that improves people's futures.

II. Education is the key to a successful future.

- A. School exposes us to new ideas that could lead to future careers and job opportunities.
 1. At school, we have to learn about many subjects that might not interest us but allow us to understand our strengths and weaknesses.
 2. Without being exposed to different subjects, like speech, I would not have ever thought to become a speech teacher or been nearly as passionate about communication and its place in our society.
- B. Learning allows us to realize more about ourselves.
 1. While I have always liked school, I was more drawn to math as a younger student. Being at a school provided me with opportunities to perform and use public speaking skills.
 2. Because of my experiences at my high school, I was able to pursue different experiences that taught me how to speak and present, which is why I am a teacher today.
- C. Because I am a teacher, school is a second home to me.
 1. I live near the high school where I teach, and I love everything about school from the classroom experience to extracurricular activities.
 2. I could not imagine spending my time anywhere else. Working at a school is more than just a job to me; it is a way of life.

Transition: Not only is school home to me, but it is also home to ideas.

III. School provides a home to new ideas that really can change the world

- A. School has allowed me to learn more about the world in which I live.

1. I find inspiration in my students and colleagues who have different values and experiences than my own.
 2. These differences have encouraged me to read more, explore diversity, and appreciate the perspectives of others.
- B. In addition, school has challenged my beliefs.
1. Because of schooling, I have had the opportunity to travel and explore cultures that differ from my own.
 2. School has encouraged me to establish my core thoughts of family, religion, and education, which has made me a stronger wife, mom, sister, and person for the people most important to me in this world.
- C. Besides in my personal life, school has allowed me to witness other people discovering new ideas for themselves.
1. Watching others learn to bring me joy and is the most rewarding part of my life.
 2. When other people establish ideas and values for themselves, I have successfully impacted my school community, which enriches the lives of all parties involved.

CONCLUSION

- I. As Nelson Mandela implied in his quote, education is a way to change the world and school provides an avenue through which we can become ourselves and have an impact on those around us.
- II. School is a place that I value because it has been a place that has allowed me to grow in many ways.
- III. School is a place that my whole family values greatly, it has been the key to my future and I have seen it help many people lead successful lives, and it truly is a place to cultivate new ideas and thoughts that can change each of our worlds for the better.

Values Speech Brainstorming Document

1. List two or three ideas that you could use for each category.

Person (ie: your grandma, a sibling):

Place (ie: home, vacation spot, etc.):

Object (ie: a ring, an heirloom, a gift, etc.):

Activity (ie: a hobby, religious ceremony, holiday gathering, etc.):

2. Circle the one idea that you believe you could comfortably speak about for 3-5 minutes in front of an audience.

3. List 5 reasons why you value what you circled.

4. Circle the 3 greatest reasons you value what you circled.

5. Brainstorm 2-3 stories from your life experience that relate to what you circled.

6. What would you say/do to draw the audience into this value? Would you use a quote, an interesting fact, a story from your life, etc.?

7. Why will your audience care about this topic? How can you relate your value to them?