

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Committee Hearing Bill Sponsor Speech**

The time has come to convince others about the importance and necessity of your bill. You will work as a **team** to develop a **well written speech** to be delivered to the committee reviewing your bill. **One team member** will be responsible for delivering the speech and answering up to 15 minutes of questions.

### **Your speech should answer three basic questions:**

1. What is the problem you are trying to solve?
2. How does your bill solve the problem?
3. Why should we care? (Why is this important?)

### **Persuasive Speaking**

Logos, Ethos, and Pathos are elements of persuasive public speaking developed more than 2,300 years ago by the ancient Greek philosopher, Aristotle. Aristotle believed these elements were essential to delivering an effective persuasive speech.

#### **1. Logos: Making an academic argument**

- Using logic, facts, and data to convince others that your argument is rational and makes logical sense.

#### **2. Ethos: Demonstrating credibility or authority**

- Convincing others that you are on the “right” side.
- Using quotes from famous or respected people, people of authority, or experts in their field may add credibility to your argument.

#### **3. Pathos: Appealing to your audience’s emotions**

- Using emotion to appeal to your audience’s senses, memory, shared experiences, compassion, or sense of decency.
- Using a story to help connect to your audience

### **Your speech should be...**

- 3 – 5 minutes in length
- written out (note cards are recommended)
- structured with a clear beginning, middle, and end
- delivered with passion

### **Your speech should demonstrate**

- Evidence of research
- Clear structure and organization
- Use of Logos, Ethos, and Pathos
- Contributions of all team members

**\*\*Research on persuasion indicates that people are persuaded by the BEST arguments, not the MOST arguments. Consider this advice as you craft your bill sponsor speech. Don’t dilute your message with too many different ideas and statistics, work on making a really compelling case for your bill in a clear way.**

**Teamwork:** Begin by brainstorming together about each category of persuasion. Each member of your group is responsible for writing one segment of the speech, or for editing the final draft and delivering the speech. As you discuss, each member of the group should take notes below. After you brainstorm, discuss the BEST arguments in each category.

1. **Logos:** What evidence, data, or statistics you want to incorporate into your speech. What logical reasoning backs up your proposal.

Assign one member to research and write the “Logos” portion. \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Ethos:** Why is this the “right” way to approach solving the problem? Consider appealing to shared values like liberty, individualism, justice, equality, and the rule of law. Is this idea supported by respected leaders? Assign one member to research and write the “Ethos” portion of the speech.

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3. **Pathos:** How can you help people emotionally connect to this issue? Do you have a personal experience with this issue, or do you know of a story that would make a compelling emotional case?

Assign one member to research and write the “Pathos” portion. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Determine who will deliver the speech and answer questions about the bill at Committee Hearings.**

## Sample student speeches

### Stem Cell Research

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I stand before you today to encourage you to vote for HB 501 Stem Cell Research.

There are different types of stem cell research—research dealing with adult cells, cord cells, and embryonic cells. The latter is what causes the most controversy. Some will argue that the use of stem cells amounts to killing children. That would be incorrect. This is not about abortion. This is not about taking lives, rather, this is about saving lives. This bill is using those embryos, which would have been thrown away, for a greater cause. That embryo can now be used to save another life. While it's true that those embryonic cells may be obtained during abortion surgeries, the abortion is going to happen whether or not this bill is passed. This bill allows some good to come out of something unfortunate. It doesn't matter if you're pro-life or pro-choice. This bill isn't encouraging abortions in any way shape or form; it's just making use of valuable life-saving cells that might someday lead to life-saving cures for diseases that today have no cure.

Now, as I said earlier, there are different types of research, meaning that we should focus on the fact that this funding is helping encourage all types of research, not just those based on embryonic cells. Let's take a look at cord cells. Cord cells are taken during pregnancy and stored for future use for newborn if necessary. It's been described as sort of an insurance policy should anything happen to the child, or even the parents or a sibling. It's like a bone marrow transplant in the way that the closest matches are directly related to you.

Don't take my word for it, take the words of Dr. Austin Smith, with the Cambridge Center for Stem Cell Research: "Using embryos in research," he says, "is akin to organ donation from a brain-dead trauma victim. For both, they have no possibility of development. You can say that there is life there, but it's not viable. With informed consent, the tissue can be donated for the research to save other lives."

To save other lives.

Put simply, the human body rejects things that aren't supposed to be there. That's what the immune system is for—to protect us against diseases and viruses, since they're basically foreign objects. But what about foreign objects that are supposed to be there?

My cousin Kelly had severe heart problems since she was born. When she was in 5th grade, things took a turn for the worse, and she needed to get a heart transplant. She did, and started the long recovery. A few years later, we thought everything was fine, or at least as fine as it could be considering the situation. Then she got a new diagnosis: post-transplant non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Now, lymphoma is a kind of blood cancer where the lymphocytes attack a foreign object, which was in this case, that heart. Those cells are the ones that work for your immune system, but when they attack something that is supposed to be there, things can go very wrong.

I'll save you the suspense- she recovered and is doing well. We spent Easter together a few weeks ago. But it's a miracle we did. The reason that she, and about 20% of other organ receivers got lymphoma is because organ donations aren't perfect. Like I said earlier, the closest matches for things like that come from relatives, and in the cases of vital organs, that's really not an option. And that brings me back to stem cell research.

No one can even begin to imagine the possibilities stem cell research can bring. It's relatively recent, yes, but that doesn't mean it can't change the world. If we had invested more in stem cell research before, there's a possibility that my cousin's heart problems could have been cured through umbilical cord cells. No transplant. No lymphoma. No cancer.

Do we know that for sure? No. But can we rule out the possibility of that in the future? Absolutely not. If we give scientists the means, they can potentially save an unlimited number of lives. There is no limit to the knowledge stem cell research will bring. And with that ladies and gentlemen, I urge you to vote yes to HB 501 and help lead America into a future of saving more of our citizens' lives.

## Abolish the Electoral College

Good Morning Ladies and Gentleman, I stand before you today to encourage you to vote for HB 103, A Federal Law to Abolish the Electoral College.

Americans take enormous pride in our Democracy. We believe that Democracy is the best form of Government on Earth. We believe that every citizen in the world should be as lucky as we are to live under such an enlightened form of government. We truly believe, just as Thomas Jefferson did in writing the Declaration of Independence, that "*Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the [consent of the governed](#)*" The Power and authority of the government should come from the people.

But in our own country, the system we use to elect our most important leader, the President of the United States, ignores the will of the people. Three times in our History a President has been elected who one FEWER votes than his opponent.

You may ask, "How is this possible? How could our Democracy be so flawed?" The answer lies in the outdated system of electing our President, known as "The Electoral College". Rather than voting directly for the president, we vote for "Electors" equal to the number of Representatives plus senators from our state. Wisconsin has 12 Electors. California has 55. Wyoming has 3. Under this system the vote of a citizen in Wyoming holds the same weight as 3.5 citizens of California.

Our founding fathers had many clear eyed visions about how to create a good government, but the electoral college was not one of them. They fundamentally mistrusted the people, believing that the populace could be swayed to vote for the "wrong candidate", and putting in place the Electoral College as a safeguard against the ignorant masses. The same ignorant masses whose authority our democracy rests upon.

The Electoral college system not only distorts the outcome of our elections , it discourages our citizens. This flawed system contributes to voter apathy and disillusionment. It seems that only the "Swing States" matter in a presidential election, so are we surprised that voter turnout hovers just over 50% for presidential elections?

Help our country take a step towards a more democratic and truly representative form of government. Take back our Democracy! Vote Yes on HB103, Abolishing the Electoral College.