

From: Dr Eric Miller

7 Oracy Activities

1

Persuasive Speeches (celebrating and praising something or someone – or suggesting an improvement)

For Persuasion, the elements of Rhetoric can be used, including:

- 1) Telling an illustrative anecdote to get the listener/reader involved on the human level (on emotional, philosophical, and aesthetic levels).
- 2) Citing authorities, experts.
- 3) Citing traditions.
- 4) Citing common sense.
- 5) Citing experiences of the speaker and/or listeners.
- 6) Citing benefits for the listeners.
- 7) Citing the common good.
- 8) Raising an objection to one's point, and replying to that objection.

Some Speech Topics are at

https://storytellinginstitute.org/RIS_Speech_Topics.pdf

2

Debate (each turn is one-minute at most)

- 1) Speaker A: Opening Statement.
- 2) Speaker B: Rebuttal and Counter-Statement.
- 3) Speaker A: Rebuttal and Counter-Statement.
- 4) Speaker B: Rebuttal and Counter-Statement.

Some Debate Topics are at

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3

One-Minute Speeches on a Given Topic

4

Hearing from Various Points of View ("Public Meeting")

A situation is described.

Various stake-holders in the situation say what they think should be done to improve the situation.

5

Responding to Moral Dilemmas, and Making Practical Decisions ("Conscience Alley")

The students form two lines opposite each other, approx five feet apart,

One student walks between the two lines.

Students on each side try to persuade the walker to come and join their side, giving pros and cons regarding a course of action.

The walker can move closer to one line or the other.

6

"Where Do You Stand?"

Assign one end of the space to the statement: "I strongly agree".

Assign the opposite end of the space to the statement: "I strongly disagree".

The center is neutral.

Students move to the spot that represents the level they are at. Then they take turns explaining why they are where they are.

This activity can also be done as: Raise your hand to maximum height if you strongly agree.

7

Telling and Leading a Discussion about a Story (an Animal Fable, etc)

Tell the story, and then lead a discussion with one's listeners by asking these questions

(in each case, the storyteller could give the storyteller's own answer after a number of listeners might give their answers) –

- 1) Tell one thing you really liked about the story (or the way it was told).
- 2) Might you suggest adding anything to the story, or otherwise modifying the story (or the way it was told) in any way?
- 3) Does the story remind you of any experience you have had, or of any other story?
- 4) What Meaning, Message, Lesson, Moral, Take-Away, do you get from the story?

Some Panchatantra Stories are at

https://storytellinginstitute.org/Panchatantra_Stories.html

Some Jataka Tales are at

https://storytellinginstitute.org/Jataka_Tales.html

Some Aesop's Fables are at

https://storytellinginstitute.org/Aesops_Fables.html