

## Persuasive Speech Topics

First of all, almost any informative topic can become a persuasive topic by adding a call-to-action step. Secondly, try to avoid speech topics that deal with fixed beliefs like abortion, capital punishment, religion and so forth. People have spent many years deciding what they think about these topics and you are not likely to change their minds in a four to six minute speech. Don't set yourself up to fail.

### Philosophical Topics

Reincarnation

Bigamy

### School related Topics

College requirements

Student financial aid policies

Black sororities and fraternities

Stepping

Tuition costs

### Health related topics

Food additives

Eating less meat

Health care system

Birth control / Safe Sex

The importance of wearing well fitting shoes

Smoking policies

Miscellaneous Topics

TV violence

Seal hunting

Equal rights / Sexism

Nuclear power

Caller ID

Advertising

### Fun Topics

Why you should vacation at Walt Disney

World

Persuading the audience to visit a local museum or zoo

### Government related topics

Medicare

Government spending

The national debt

Drug laws

Space exploration

Pornography

Legal drinking age

Speed limits

Foreign aid

Nursing home regulation

Public office term limits

Free speech

Tax laws

Criminal justice

Censorship

Unemployment compensation

Food stamps

### Adoption

Should the orphanage system be reestablished

Should foreign adoptions be encouraged?

Should transracial adoption be encouraged?

Is an open adoption policy preferable to a closed adoption?

### Africa

Is colonialism responsible for Africa's problems?

Would ending apartheid in Africa benefit black South Africans?

An Aging Population

Will an aging population be harmful to America?

Should social security be rescued?

Is the outlook for future retirees bleak?

Are nursing homes beneficial?

### Alcohol

Should the health benefits of alcohol be promoted?

Is advertising liquor on television and radio irresponsible?

Do television liquor ads promote underage drinking?

Is Alcoholics Anonymous effective?

Do adult children of alcoholics benefit from recovery groups?

### American Foreign Policy

Should the United States force democracy upon other nations?

Does United States foreign aid harm other nations and/or the U.S.?

Should a permanent UN military force be established?

Should China be condemned as a violator of human rights?

Will European unification strengthen Europe?

Is German unification harmful?

Did the Persian Gulf War weaken the U.S.?

### American History

Was the Salem Witchcraft hysteria caused by a fear of women?

Was the Mexican War an exercise in American imperialism?

Have historians overemphasized the slavery issue as a cause of the Civil War?

Was the New Deal an effective answer to the Great Depression?

Was it necessary to drop the atomic bomb at the end of World War II?

Did the antiwar movement prolong the war in Vietnam?

### America's Prisons

Should prisons rehabilitate?

Do prisons create a criminal personality?

Will building more prisons solve prison overcrowding?

### America's Victims

Does Repressed Memory Therapy create victims?

Do talk shows exploit society's victims?

Should the Battered Women Syndrome be a legal defense?

Is there a date rape crisis in society?

Are self-help groups helpful?

### **Animal Rights**

Is animal experimentation justified?

Is eating meat detrimental?

Is hunting animals morally acceptable?

Do zoos preserve endangered species?

### **Biomedical Ethics**

Is surrogate mothering a valuable service?

Should humans be allowed to receive

animal organ transplants?

Should HIV-infected surgeons be allowed to operate?

should newborns without brains be used as organ donors?

Is electroconvulsive therapy safe?

Should post-menopausal women become pregnant?

Could genetic screening of embryos harm society?

### **The Breakup of the Soviet Union**

Was the United States (and/or Ronald Reagan) responsible for the collapse of the Soviet Union?

Would the United States retain a significant nuclear arsenal?

Should the West give massive foreign aid to Russia?

### **Censorship**

Should flag burning be banned?

Are stronger child pornography laws needed?

Should "hate speech" be tolerated?

Should government funding of the arts be restricted?

Are movie ratings effective in curbing violence?

Should video games be censored?

### **Chemical Dependency; Drug Abuse**

Should pregnant addicts be prosecuted?

Should the war on drugs (domestic or international) be abandoned?

Should employees be tested for drug use?

Are the D.A.R.E. programs and other anti-drug programs effective?

Is the tobacco industry to blame for leading people to smoke?

Can curbs on cigarette smoking advertising help prevent teenage smoking?

### **Child Abuse; Child Welfare**

Is satanic ritual abuse of children widespread?

Is child testimony in abuse cases generally credible?

Can orphanages be beneficial for needy children?

Is spanking detrimental to children?

Do fathers have legitimate reasons for refusing to pay child support?

Do courts discriminate against fathers in custody hearings?

Are children of divorced parents at greater risk?

### **Christopher Columbus**

Was Christopher Columbus a hero?

Are modern attacks on Christopher Columbus justified?

### **Crime and Criminals; Criminal Justice; Gangs; Juvenile Crime**

Does community-based policing prevent crime?

Does the "three strikes" law deter crime?

Should violent juvenile criminals be tried as adults?

Can prison boot camps reform young defenders?

Do victim's rights threaten defendants' rights?

Should tough laws target gangs?

Is juvenile crime a serious problem in the schools?

Does television violence contribute to juvenile crime?

Are curfews effective and constitutional?

### **Culture Wars**

Should the United States embrace diverse cultural influences?

Is multicultural education helpful?

Has Madonna liberated American women?

Is rap music decadent?

Should rock music be labeled?

### **Death and Dying; Euthanasia; Suicide**

Do hospices provide the best care for the dying?

Are living wills beneficial?

Should physician-assisted suicide be legalized?

### **Education in America; Teenage Pregnancy**

Should the government offer school vouchers?

Does multiculturalism benefit students?

Can sex education programs prevent teenage pregnancy?

Should tracking and ability grouping be eliminated?

Should schools distribute condoms?

Is home schooling an effective method of education?

Will stricter dress codes improve the educational environment?

Is single gender education a more effective way to teach children?

Should disabled children be mainstreamed?

### **Endangered Species**

Is the Endangered Species Act effective?

Are wetland regulations fair to property owners?

Should the international ban on ivory be lifted?

### **Genetic Engineering**

Will genetically altered animals benefit humankind?

Is DNA fingerprinting reliable?

### **Global Resources; Global Warming; The Environment**

Is global warming a serious threat?  
Is rapid introduction of electric cars a good strategy for reducing air pollution?  
Is America's drinking water safe?  
Is nuclear power a viable energy source?  
Is the EPA effective?

### **Health Care in America**

Is there a specialist physician glut in the health care system?  
Is alternative medicine safe and effective?  
Can chiropractors help heal many ailments?  
Can mental attitude affect biological disease?

### **Health and Fitness**

Is milk consumption harmful?  
Are vitamin supplements beneficial?  
Are weight-loss treatments harmful?  
Are homeopathic remedies beneficial?  
Are silicone breast implants dangerous for women?  
Is compulsive gambling an uncontrollable disease?

### **The Homeless**

Is the extent of homelessness exaggerated?  
Can shelters help the homeless?

### **Illegal Immigration**

Are illegal immigrants harming America?  
Should America admit all immigrants?

### **Interracial America**

Is emphasizing racial diversity productive?  
Should racial matching in adoptions be encouraged?  
Should children of mixed-race unions be raised biracially?

### **Israel**

Should the Palestinians have their own nation?  
Should the United States eliminate aid to Israel?

### **The Legal System**

Should the jury system be reformed?  
Are courts overburdened with frivolous lawsuits?  
Does the criminal justice system discriminate against blacks?  
Does televising trials demean justice?  
Should plea bargaining be abolished?  
Should casino gambling be prohibited?  
Should the insanity defense be abolished?

### **Male/Female Roles; Working Women**

Do working parents harm children?  
Does day care harm children?  
Should men and women share domestic responsibilities?  
Has women's increased participation in the work force harmed society?  
Are women victims of discrimination in the workplace?  
Is sexual harassment in the workplace exaggerated?  
Should women serve in military combat?

### **Mass Media**

Does media violence contribute to society's violence?  
Should executions be televised?  
Is subliminal persuasion a threat?  
Is television harmful for children?

### **Mental Illness**

Is schizophrenia genetic?  
Is Suppressed Memory Therapy legitimate?

### **Population**

Does China still need the one-child policy?

### **Race Relations; Racism in America**

Is affirmative action unnecessary and divisive?  
Have middle-class blacks overcome discrimination?  
Is Hispanic poverty caused by racism?  
Are Asian Americans a "model minority"?  
Should Quebec become a separate nation?

### **Space Exploration**

Should the United States space shuttle program continue?

### **Sports in America**

Can competitive sports be unhealthy?  
Should college athletic programs be reformed?  
Has athletes' greed marred professional sports?  
Should steroids be banned from sports?

### **Violence**

Is violence in the workplace a serious problem?  
Does violence in the media cause violence in society?  
Is domestic violence against men a problem?

### **Welfare; Work**

Should the welfare program be reformed?  
Should welfare programs be turned over to the states?  
Are labor unions still necessary?  
Do working mothers benefit families?  
Is it time to abolish the minimum wage?