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Persuasive Speech Topic Ideas

By Brian Benjamin Carter, MS, LAc

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Get Your Persuasive Speech Topic Here!

What makes a good persuasive speech topic? Experts will tell you that it should be a conversial subject. Why?

Well, if it's not controversial, no one, including yourself, will care if anyone gets persuaded! And the more controversial your persuasive speech topic, the harder challenge your creating for yourself, and the more you'll learn.

What's controversial enough? Well, we could consider vulgar things, but let's not degrade the quality of our diatribe. Let's begin with the two topics ettiquette suggests be omitted from polite conversation: religion, and politics!

Medical Persuasive Speech Topic Ideas:

Stem Cells

Cloning

Abortion

Is it a Fetus, or a Child?

Whose Rights are More Important – Mom's, or Child's?

Pro-Life vs. Pro-Choice

Alcoholism

Is it a Physical, Mental, Emotional, or Spiritual Disease?

Is it a real disease, or just a learned behavior

AIDS

Global Viral Epidemics

Drugs

Should We Legalize Marijuana?

Marijuana: Its Effects on the Mind and Body

Persuasive Speech Topic Ideas

Parenthood Issues

Teen Parenthood

Welfare and Large Families

Irresponsible Fathers

Should We Require a License for Parenthood?

Political Persuasive Speech Topic Ideas:

Capital Punishment

The Death Penalty Versus Thou Shalt Not Kill

Poverty – Why Haven't We Solved This Problem?

War

Terrorism

The Middle East

Political Correctness vs. First Amendment Rights

Gun Control: Restricting Rights or Protecting People

Find more persuasive speech topic ideas at http://www.rand.org/hot_topics/

Another thing to consider in developing your persuasive speech topic is your approach. Aristotle listed several kinds – a persuasive speech topic can be based on questions of fact, value, or policy.

Persuasive Speech Topic based on a question of fact

In areas without an absolute answer, persuade your audience that one thing or another is fact. For example, if we don't know whether aliens exist, try to persuade them that they don't. Your persuasive speech topic would be, "Aliens Cannot Possibly Exist."

Persuasive Speech Topic based on a question of value

Talk about whether something is good or bad, worthless or ideal. For example, try to persuade your audience that national borders are inhumane, or that basketball is the ideal sport. Your persuasive speech topic would be, "Basketball is the Ideal Sport."

Persuasive Speech Topic based on a question of policy

Argue for immediate action or tacit approval about what should be done. This is a call to action. You must not only persuade them that you're right, and that the action is necessary, but that it is immediately important. Then provide them with a clear plan of action in line with your persuasive speech topic – what to do and how to do it.

For example, explain how many people are dying of AIDS in Africa, what it's doing to their economy and governments, and how it will inevitably effect America. Then tell them how to get involved with raising money and influencing American politics. Your persuasive speech topic would be, "How You Can Help Save America from Africa's AIDS Problem."

Persuasive Speech Topic Ideas

Links to More Persuasive Speech Topic Ideas:

<http://www.valencia.cc.fl.us/lrcwest/kaysmith.html>

<http://www.suffolk.lib.ny.us/libraries/cmmk/speech.html>

Also see a free persuasive speech sample at: <http://pulsemed.org/free-persuasive-speech.htm>

Brian has been a public speaker for five years, a guest on national radio shows, is president of his local speaking club, teaches medicine, and is the author of *Powerful Body, Peaceful Mind: How to Heal Yourself with Foods, Herbs, and Acupressure* (<http://www.pulsemed.org>).

Informative Speech Topic Ideas

By **Brian B. Carter, MS, LAc**

Informative Speech Topic Ideas by Brian B. Carter, MS, LAc

Need an Informative Speech Topic?

I've never had trouble choosing an informative speech topic– I started speaking after I was already learning alternative health, and there's plenty that people don't know about that.

What makes a good or bad informative speech topic?

I was already part of the way there– my speech topic was interesting. So when you choose your informative speech topic, don't pick something your audience is going to groan about as soon as they hear it! Gun control has been done. Drunk driving is old. Abortion is too polarized. Legalizing marijuana... all of these are a death sentence, and so is capital punishment. You can't talk about them without bias, and even if you could your audience won't put aside theirs. Save them for a challenging persuasive speech topic.

What kind of informative speech does your audience want to hear?

Choose an informative speech topic either your audience knows nothing about, or that hasn't given much thought to – for the second one, I mean things that are commonplace, but when you think about it, you realize you don't know how it works or what it is – e.g., what is escrow? Why does inflation happen? What happens to your trash after the garbage truck takes it? Who determines TV and radio ratings? And so on. Look around your life and see if something like this sticks out.

Your informative speech topic should be entertaining, or useful. What happens to your trash is trivial unless you make it funny, or there's an ethical implication. But don't get into persuading – just inform!

What does Toastmasters say about informative speech topics?

According to Toastmasters International, the best known public speaking organization, people learn

Persuasive Speech Topic Ideas

when the information is relevant, relates to what they already know, involves them, is clearly organized, is presented in an interesting way, is repeated, and involves visual aids.

So, in some ways, your informative speech topic is not as important as the spin you put on it, how you package it, and how you present it.

First it must be interesting to you. Second, the information must reach your audience by being interesting to them... there are all kinds of presentation tricks you can do to involve them, but that's another topic!

But here's an example– I wanted to inform people about something specific with acupuncture. People are afraid it will hurt. Yet, most of my patients think it's basically painless, and were pleasantly

surprised the first time how good it made them feel. I wanted to contrast the negative expectation with the positive reality. So my informative speech topic was "How Acupuncture Feels" but I used surprise as a tactic to deliver the message. I also used analogy, because the "Acu Buzz" was so elusive– I compared it to a number of good and complicated experiences (swimming and the taste of oysters) that were hard to describe but fairly commonplace. I answered their questions, kept it interesting, delivered something unexpected, and related it to something they already knew about.

Brian has been a public speaker for five years, a guest on national radio shows, is president of his local speaking club, teaches medicine, and is the author of *Powerful Body, Peaceful Mind: How to Heal Yourself with Foods, Herbs, and Acupressure* (<http://www.pulsemed.org/>).



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