

Name: _____ Date: _____

Performance Task Writing Prompt

In this unit, you analyzed how characters like Antigone and Creon—as well as real-life speakers like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Emma Watson—use rhetorical appeals and devices to persuade an audience. Now, it is your turn.

You will write and deliver a speech about a personal, social, or political issue that matters to you, with the purpose of persuading your classmates to take action to help address the issue. Your speech should be approximately 2.5–4 minutes long (approximately 500–750 words) and incorporate at least two pieces of credible research.

Because your time is limited, choose a focused, manageable topic that you can develop thoughtfully and persuasively within the time frame.

Persuasive Speech Rubric

10th Grade English Language Arts

Rubric Scoring Key	Fully meets (4) All criteria present in the writing	Mostly meets (3) Most criteria present, with some misunderstandings	Partially meets (2) Criteria attempted, but significant misunderstandings	Does not meet yet (1) Criteria are not attempted or not enough evidence to rate
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Structure	Rubric Score	Notes
Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses an engaging hook and provides essential context or background information Presents a persuasive claim about a narrowed issue 	4 3 2 1	
Organization Organizes speech so that it begins with a problem and provides a solution	4 3 2 1	
Conclusion Ends with a persuasive call to action that tells the audience what they should do to help address the issue	4 3 2 1	

Development	Rubric Score	Notes
<p>Evidence and Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uses a variety of evidence to persuade an audience to adopt their viewpoint and motivate them to act ● Explains (as needed) how and why evidence supports a main idea and connects back to the claim ● Demonstrates awareness of the audience's knowledge level and concerns through the evidence chosen to support the main ideas ● Uses all three rhetorical appeals to effectively persuade the audience 	4 3 2 1	

Language	Rubric Score	Notes
<p>Style</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uses language and tone appropriate to the task, audience, and purpose ● Chooses diction, vocabulary, and sentence structures to shape tone and strengthen the argument 	4 3 2 1	
<p>Grammar and Conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uses correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation ● Demonstrates consistent use of grade-level grammar and usage 	4 3 2 1	

Delivery	Rubric Score	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presents ideas clearly, confidently, and logically ● Effectively adapts tone and delivery to the purpose and audience ● Uses effective delivery techniques (volume, pace, pausing, intonation, eye contact, and/or body language) to enhance meaning 	4 3 2 1	