

PBA 2 - Soapbox Speech

Project Description:

You are a member of many communities. Each of these communities faces problems that need to be solved. In order to solve these challenges, members must become “informed, empowered, and active citizens and community leaders” (mikvachallenge.org). Analyze a problem that affects your community and develop a well-supported solution to solve it. Inform your classmates of the problem and promote your solution in a 2 to 3 minute soapbox style speech. You are encouraged to conduct research outside of class time.

Directions

1. **Analysis** - Research the problem thoroughly in order to find the **cause(s)** of the problem, the **problem’s impact on your community**, and other background information.
2. **Solution** - Select a problem that affects your community that you are interested in researching and developing a **practical plan** to solve the problem and a **rationale** for that solution. You need not execute this solution.
3. **Evidence** - Provide relevant facts, examples, and details to support your problem analysis or your solution. The sources for your evidence must be mentioned in your speech. You may include sources from newspapers, online databases, and other electronic or print sources. A **local source** is one that is close to or within your community which is discussing or reporting on the problem.
4. **Organization** - Structure your speech logically to most effectively explain the problem and argue for your solution.
5. **Presentation** - Speak clearly and powerfully, effectively engaging the audience in your speech.

Suggested Chronology

Day 1

- introduce project
- conduct lottery for issue
- begin problem analysis
- plan next research steps

Day 2

- complete problem analysis
- begin solution research
- plan remaining research steps

Day 3

- complete solution research
- develop solution plan
- reduce information to be soapbox-speech-ready and prepare for presentation

Day 4+

- communicate soapbox speech
- engage in classmates’ speeches

Rubric

CATEGORY	3	2	1	0
Analysis - Problem Background	Describes background of the problem, including an explanation of the primary cause(s).	Minimally describes the background of the problem, and includes primary cause(s).	Describes background of the problem, but does not include an explanation of the primary cause(s).	Does not describe background of the problem, nor includes an explanation of the primary cause(s).
Analysis - Community Impact	Motivates the audience to believe that this is a problem that they should care about.	Explains how the problem impacts the speaker's community.	Discusses impact, but does not explain relevance of the impact to the community.	Does not explain how the problem impacts the speaker's community.
Solution - Plan of Action	Explains how audience members can get involved in the process at a local level. The solution should be innovative.	Provides a practical plan of action to solve the problem, and	Provides a questionable or unclear plan of action.	Provides no practical plan of action.
Solution - Rationale	Student justifies why the proposed solution would be the most effective and the most viable option as opposed to other solutions.	Provides a rationale for the proposed solution.	Provides an underdeveloped or unclear rationale for that plan.	Provides a questionable or unclear plan of action.
Evidence	Utilizes at least three (3) relevant and credible sources, including at least one (1) local source. All sources ENHANCE overall argument.	Utilizes at least three (3) relevant and credible sources, including at least one (1) local source.	Utilizes two (2) relevant and credible sources, including at least one (1) local source.	Utilizes no relevant or credible local sources.
Organization	Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization. The organization contributes to the effectiveness of the speech.	Demonstrates a logical and clear plan of organization.	Demonstrates a partially illogical or somewhat unclear plan of organization.	Speech is largely incoherent or incomplete.
Presentation	Presentation is of appropriate length; and the presenter speaks clearly; and presenter makes appropriate eye contact; and presenter's demeanor is engaging to the audience.	Presentation is of appropriate length; and the presenter speaks clearly; and presenter makes minimal eye contact; and presenter's demeanor is minimally engaging to the audience.	Presentation is of inappropriate length; or speech patterns were inconsistent; or makes inconsistent eye contact; or presenter's demeanor disengages the audience.	Presentation is of inappropriate length; and speech patterns were inconsistent; and presenter maintains limited eye contact; and the presenter's demeanor disengages the audience.

Total: ___ /21

Comments:

**Hook/ Attention-
Getter**

(optional; may be effective)

**Analysis - Problem
Background:**

Describes background of the problem, including an explanation of the primary cause(s).

Questions for consideration:

When, where, and how did the problem begin?
Has it improved or worsened, since then?

**Analysis -
Community Impact:**

Explains how the
problem impacts the
speaker's community.

**Questions for
consideration:**

How is your community
impacted? Why is the
problem worth drawing
attention to?

Solution - Plan of Action: Provides a practical plan of action to solve the problem.

Questions for consideration:
What is the best way to address the issue? Can you improve upon previous or current attempts, or is a completely new approach needed?

Solution - Rationale:

Provides a rationale for the proposed solution.

Questions for consideration:

Why is your solution effective? Why is it better than what has been done before or what is being done, now?

Closing/ Call to Action

(optional; may be effective)