

# Position Presentation Outline

Your team's challenge is to make your strongest case to convince classmates to vote for your position on your issue. You will have up to ten minutes for your presentation. Each member of your team must "Speak Out," presenting at least one argument or point of information. Use your worksheets to discuss the arguments, choose the strongest facts for each, and decide who will present each point. Write the presenter's initials next to each point. You may have fewer arguments or facts—that's fine. Just use what you learned effectively. Even if you have to present a position you disagree with, do your best to persuade others anyway. It's good practice!

**Our team is speaking out in \_\_\_\_\_ (support or opposition) on the question \_\_\_\_\_.**

## A. First Argument:

**Fact or  
Statistic**

**Fact or  
Statistic**

**Fact or  
Statistic**

## B. Second Argument:

**Fact or  
Statistic**

**Fact or  
Statistic**

**Fact or  
Statistic**

## C. Third Argument:

**Fact or  
Statistic**

**Fact or  
Statistic**

**Fact or  
Statistic**

## D. Fourth Argument:

**Fact or  
Statistic**

**Fact or  
Statistic**

**Fact or  
Statistic**

## E. Fifth Argument:

**Fact or  
Statistic**

**Fact or  
Statistic**

**Fact or  
Statistic**

## III. Summary, invitation for classmates to vote for your side

# Guidelines for Letter to the Editor

Follow these guidelines for your letter. You may either hand write your letter or print it from a computer. Choose one of the issues presented in class as part of this webquest, or get your teacher's permission to write about a different issue that is important to you.

- Date your letter at the top.
- Begin your letter with "To the Editor:"
- Clearly identify your issue and your position on it in the first sentence.
- Make two-four key points, each in a separate paragraph.
- Include two-three specific facts or arguments for each point. Check your facts for accuracy and give credit to the source of facts or statistics you quote in your letter.
- Clearly identify statements that are your opinion, to separate them from researched facts or statistics.
- Present your arguments and ideas in an interesting way, to get the reader's attention and support.
- Stick to the point and keep each paragraph brief.
- Include at least one specific action you plan to take and invite others to join you in supporting your cause.
- Close your letter with "Sincerely," and sign your name.
- Include contact information (address, phone number, or e-mail address) in case the Editor wants to contact you.
- Check your letter for proper spelling, grammar, and neatness.



## Conclusion

Here's to you! You've shown your ability to form reasoned, thoughtful opinions and to speak out for what matters to you in respectful, constructive ways. There's no stopping you now, as you apply your kid power to making things better for yourself and those around you. Well done!

Here are some books about kids speaking out in different ways, and the issues you explored, which you might enjoy.

### Fiction

- *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen. Random House Children's Books, 2005.
- *Indigo's Star* by Hilary McKay. Simon & Schuster, 2004.
- *The Last Wild Place* by Rosa Jordan. Peachtree Publishers, 2008.
- *Pete & Fremont* by Jenny Tripp. Sandpiper, 2008.
- *Sassy: Little Sister is Not My Name* by Sharon M. Draper.
- *Saving Lilly* by Peg Kehret. Aladdin, 2002.
- *Winnie's War* by Jenny Moss. Walker & Company, 2009.

### Nonfiction

- *Mean Soup* by Betsy Everitt. K-3.
- *Freedom Song: Young Voices and the Struggle for Civil Rights* by Mary C. Turck. Chicago Review Press, 2008.
- *Just for Elephants* by Carol Buckley. Tilbury House Publishers, 2006.
- *The Kid's Guide to Social Action: How to Solve the Social Problems You Choose—and Turn Creative Thinking into Positive Action* by Barbara A. Lewis. Free Spirit Publishing, 1998.
- *One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference* by Katie Milway. Kids Can Press, 2008.
- *Ryan and Jimmy: And the Well in Africa that Brought them Together* by Herb Shoveller. Kids Can Press, 2008.
- *Should Vaccinations be Mandatory?* edited by Noel Merino. Greenhaven Press, 2010.



# Speak Out! Webquest Evaluation

Your grade will be based on your online research, group participation, presentation, and Letters to the Editor.

	<b>Excellent 4</b>	<b>Good 3</b>	<b>Acceptable 2</b>	<b>Incomplete 1</b>
<b>Online research</b>	Worksheet complete, shows excellent effort and interest	Worksheet complete, shows good effort and interest	Worksheet mostly complete, shows acceptable effort	Worksheet incomplete, shows little effort
<b>Group participation</b>	Excellent participation; obvious, meaningful contribution to finished guide	Good participation; obvious contribution to finished guide	Some participation; some contribution to finished guide	Little participation; little contribution to finished guide
<b>Group presentation</b>	Everyone spoke, used facts very well, very persuasive finished guide	Everyone spoke, used facts well, persuasive	Almost everyone spoke, used facts adequately, somewhat persuasive	One or two spoke, little use of facts, not persuasive
<b>Letter to the Editor</b>	Well informed, very convincing, excellent grammar and spelling	Fairly well informed, convincing, good grammar and spelling	Somewhat informed, somewhat convincing, acceptable grammar and spelling	Shows little knowledge, not convincing, poor grammar and spelling

