

Speak Out! Debate "Stump Speech" Assignment(s)

First: What is a stump speech and why does it have that name?

What: You will present a 1-3 minute speech calling for **increased awareness** or a **call to action** on an issue.

- Choose a topic that you feel passionately about and which is somewhat controversial and/or misunderstood.
- Your topic may be a personal or social issue an issue or one concerning our school, city, state, country, or world.
- If you like, you may pretend to be a friend/relative/campaign manager of a real candidate or you may pretend to actually be that candidate
- Do enough prep and research to have points that are convincing and difficult to refute, because your audience might challenge you.

Where: You will stand on our portable porch and share with the class gathered around you. You will hopefully convince them of whatever your passionate point is and be able to deal with any questions or refutations they bring up.

How:

- **Brainstorm** potential topics
- **Narrow** to a favorite topic
- Pick a controversial or misunderstood detail of your topic
- Write one arguable sentence (**thesis**) statement that expresses your opinion
- Write your speech or main points on note cards. **Here is a template** you can use to prepare your speech:

May I have your attention, everybody? (pause) My name is _____ and I'm here today to talk with all of you about the issue of _____ (pause) Why do I care so deeply about this issue? Let me explain _____

That's why I believe that (thesis statement here) _____. I realize some of you may not agree with me; you may think that _____

But here are the (2-5) reasons why I believe as I do _____

_____. Now, I've taken up enough of your time, but I hope you can all better understand why I believe so strongly that (thesis statement again) _____

Pause for applause, smile, and wave one time with each hand.

Extra credit for dressing for success.