



The Speaking Center

TIPS ON CHOOSING A TOPIC

WHERE TO START

Look for a topic that interests you! One that is manageable- not too broad, not too narrow. Are you passionate or interested in anything?

Here are some questions to get you thinking:

- What is the most interesting concept you have learned about?
- What type of TV shows, books, podcasts, do you enjoy?
- What issue do you wish people were more aware of?
- What issues concern you?

INFORMATIVE TOPICS VS PERSUASIVE TOPICS

Informative & Persuasive speeches can use the same topics but with different goals

When conducting an informative speech you can choose just about anything as a topic. Ex. events, concepts, phenomena. Your main goal is to increase the audience's understanding of your topic by defining and explaining it.

When conducting a Persuasive speech, your topic should entail an argument surrounding a claim, value, or policy. Your main goal is to advocate for your topic in hopes that your listeners have a degree of change in their attitudes, beliefs, or even specific behaviors.

TAKE-AWAYS

- Consider if your audience will also be interested in your topic/find it relatable
- Aim for topics with unique key points to keep the audience's attention
 - Narrowing down the topic results in easy & more research
 - Always keep ethics in mind