

Persuasive Speech Topic Ideas for Scarlet Letter

KNOW YOUR SPEECH NUMBER WHEN YOU SIGN UP

Sign up for your speech by number on the senior bulletin board. You will be expected to present at 3-4 minute persuasive speech on the topic of your choice.

Up to three students may choose the same topic. When three students have selected the topic, it may NOT be used.

1. **Appearances:** Even smiles are beginning to look as though they have come off of production lines. Teeth are bleached and perfectly even. Are cosmetic standards rising to a level that exceeds good sense?
2. Should "Under God" have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America? The pledge was written in 1892. "Under God" was not added until 1954. Is it fair to citizens who are Muslims or Atheists?
3. **Miss America & Miss Universe**
Is it demeaning for swimsuits to be part of the competition?
4. **Children and Wedlock**
It seems as though there are more and more couples who live together and have children but never marry. Does this have consequences for the children? Does it matter to society?
5. **Matchmakers**
They are coming back. One matchmaker charges \$20,000 to weed through her database to find a spouse for you. In present day America, can this create marriages that last?
6. **Feminized Culture**
About the only thing men are allowed to do is apologize. Whatever is wrong, men caused it. Wars supposedly are caused by too much testosterone, as though too much estrogen was a fountain of peace. Does it interfere with progress on issues when half of the country is being neutered and blamed and the other half walks away feeling no responsibility?
7. **Home schooling**
Do home-schooled children miss necessary social interaction and growth?
8. **Political Correctness**
Does the constitution guarantee freedom from being offended? Doesn't maturity mean understanding that you are not going to like everything that others have a right to say and do? Isn't maturity being tolerant enough to coexist peacefully with people who have different beliefs, interests and behavior than you?

Are the forces of political correctness among the least tolerant of all. While preaching tolerance and diversity, do the forces of political correctness destroy diversity of opinion and diversity of perspective by demanding that everyone regurgitate their party line?
9. **Feng Shui –appearances and mood**
Is there scientific proof that it works? Does the color and placement of furniture in a room really direct energy?

10. Elder Care

It has been said that 80% of what we spend on healthcare is spent in the last two years of life. Is it worth it even to the patients who are getting the healthcare? Doesn't it just create two years of agony?

11. Wilderness Protection and Snowmobiles

People have left their homes in rural Michigan just to escape the constant 24-hour a day din of snowmobiles. Can a national park or wilderness area maintain any semblance of being natural with that kind and amount of traffic?

12. FCC

Between cable TV, the Internet and what children can get on disks from friends, is there any point in the FCC regulating what the networks air?

13. The Right to Know

In the USA, if you saw that your congressperson was drunk on the floor of the House, you could tell people about it without getting sued. A couple of hundred years ago our forefathers saw that it was essential for we the people to be able to discuss matters of such importance. So politics was defined legally as being "public" in the sense that we can talk about it without getting sued. If you see that your surgeon is drunk while operating, you cannot tell anyone without getting sued for more money than you ever will have, and bankruptcy will not escape the burden. So you cannot warn anyone and they cannot warn you in medicine. Whose sobriety is more important to you? Your congressperson's or your surgeon's? Shouldn't medicine be redefined so that we can have some control over our healthcare?

14. Visual Aids

Sure, they're memorable, but sometimes don't they sensationalize a speech, undermine discourse and pull attention away from logic and reason?

15. Faith Healing

Should people who believe in faith healing be allowed to withhold medical care from their children in the believe that they can be healed through faith?

16. Banned Novels: There were novels written in America before Mark Twain, but they were European novels. The first truly American literature, and possibly the best to this day, is *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, a masterpiece written by Mark Twain. It is the book that taught the world that a book written in the American vernacular could be legitimate and compelling. That might be the very reason it is not acceptable to the forces of political correctness. What might be the most important piece of literature in the United States of America has not been read by people graduating from high school and even college. Apparently it is too contentious for school curriculum because the word "n" word appears in it. In some cases Shakespeare's plays are not taught for similar reasons. Interestingly, those same students listen to rap lyrics that we would shudder to repeat. Has our culture been usurped by small-minded, self-righteous, politically correct, ner-do-wells?

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer also has been banned. So has *East of Eden*, *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker and *Little Red Riding Hood* by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. For a list of the books that have been banned in schools most frequently, go to: [The Most Common Banned Books of the 1990s](#).

Also check www.pabbis.com, the web site of "Parents Against Bad Books in Schools."

17. Conspiracy Theories: Present a conspiracy theory and prove your position (did we really reach the moon, big foot, etc)- Podcast and website "stuff they don't want you" has a wealth of theories.

- 18. Legal age and babies:** Should teens under the age of 18 be allowed to keep and raise their babies?
- 19. Parenting:** In the case of an unwed parent, it is always the female who carries the greatest burden.
- 20. Prostitution:** Nevada has legalized prostitution. Should prostitution be legalized?
- 21. Legal age and alcohol:** At 18 a person is considered a legal adult. Should the drinking age reflect the age of a legal adult?
- 22. Cell Phones:** Cell phones and texting are increasing nationally; does a law against phoning and texting help prevent driving accidents?
- 23. Objectifying women:** Hooters offer more than just good chicken wings. Many people believe that it is demeaning to women and objectifies them. Furthermore, children are allowed with parents to frequent the eatery. Should Hooters be required limitations?
- 24. Parent and Children:** Should children be allowed to divorce their parents?
- 25. Public Humiliation:** If punishment were more public, (as in the novel) would that deter crime?
Some judges have ordered public apologies or even methods of public humiliation for misdemeanors.
Does this method of punishment deter crime?
- 26. Defend or Refute:** Assigning books to be read in school is outdated and irrelevant. They do not provide 21st Century students with anything more than a modern movie or internet activity can.
- 27. ON YOUR OWN:** With permission of your instructor, select your own topic. You should be able to justify how the topic relates to themes or content of THE SCARLET LETTER