Sophomore Speech: Getting Started

Choosing a topic

Make it controversial! That means that someone can argue with you about it! In other words, don't choose something like "poverty." There is nothing GOOD about poverty and it is an enormous topic. Try something like: school start times. This is a good topic because you can discuss reasons why start times should be later and reasons why start times should not be later (or earlier). It is also something that is interesting to you! That's important!
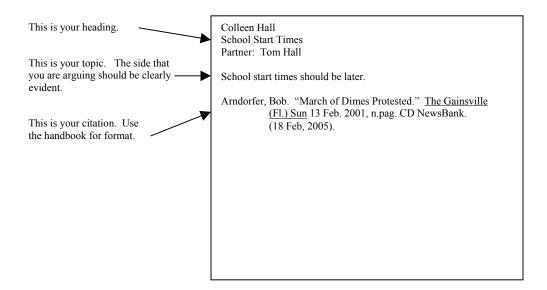
Starting your research

Once you believe that you have a topic that you are interested in, start looking for information in the library. You will want to find information in books, magazines and newspapers – these are what we mean when we talk about information in "print". At this point, you will not want to rely on information from the Internet. You will want to be sure that you can find information on your topic in print; if not, you may want to change your topic. The longer you wait, the more difficult it will be.

Your first assignment

You may choose a partner who wishes to present the same topic. Let's use "school start times" as our model. Imagine that Tom and Colleen want to research school start times.

1. Tom decides to present the argument that school start times should remain as they are. Colleen decides that school start times should be later. Tom doesn't really believe what he is arguing, but they both like the topic, and one of them has to argue for the unattractive side. They flipped a coin.
2. Both Tom and Colleen do preliminary research in the library, together. They each, INDIVIDUALLY, submit a topic proposal. Use the following example to see how your topic proposal should look. **This is due on <u>Monday, April 10.</u>**

This is your heading. ➔

This is your topic. The side that you are arguing should be clearly ➔ evident.

This is your citation. Use ➔ the handbook for format.

Colleen Hall
School Start Times
Partner: Tom Hall

School start times should be later.

Arndorfer, Bob. "March of Dimes Protested." <u>The Gainsville (Fl.) Sun</u> 13 Feb. 2001, n.pag. CD NewsBank. (18 Feb, 2005).

Finally: You will be presenting your speech to the class, beginning <u>Tuesday, May30</u>.
Students who chose to work **independently** will speak for **five to seven** minutes.
Students who chose to work **with a partner** will speak for **seven to ten** minutes.