

## **Argumentative Speech Presentation Topics**

1. Should students be allowed to have phones in elementary and high schools?
2. Should students have to wear uniforms?
3. Should college athletes be paid for playing?
4. Should the elderly receive free bus rides?
5. Should state colleges be free to attend?
6. Should all American citizens have to complete a year of community service?
7. Should students be required to take Spanish classes?
8. Should marijuana be legal for medicinal purposes?
9. Should the voting age be lowered to thirteen?
10. Should the driving age be raised to twenty-one?
11. Should students be paid for having good grades?
12. Should illegal immigrants be allowed to get drivers licenses?
13. Should not wearing a seat-belt be illegal?
14. Should student's textbooks be replaced by notebook computers or tablets?
15. Should students have to pass a basic skills test to graduate high school?
16. Should schools raise money by selling candy and sugary soft drinks to students?
17. Should schools serve french-fries and fried potato products to students at lunch?
18. Should students' grades in gym affect their grade point averages?
19. Should girls be allowed to play on boys sports teams?
20. Should teens be able to buy violent video games?
21. Should boys and girls be in separate classes?
22. Should teenage girls be allowed to get birth control without the permission of their parents?
23. Should our country have free health care?
24. Should immigration laws be reformed?
25. Should the federal government recognize civil unions?
26. Should people who download music and movies illegally be punished?
27. Should school athletes have to be on the honor roll to play in games?
28. Should music with curse words be allowed at school dances?
29. Should public schools begin the day with a silent prayer time?
30. Should students be able to listen to music on headphones during study hall?
31. Should schools offer fast food options like McDonald's or Taco Bell?
32. Should smoking be allowed at parks and other outdoor public venues?
33. Should cities offer free public Wi-Fi?
34. Should the government place a tax on junk food and fatty snacks?
35. Should the 2nd amendment give citizens the right to own assault weaponry?
36. Should people traveling in airplanes have to undergo intensive security screenings?
37. Should genetically modified foods be sold with a warning label?
38. Should teachers have to pass a basic skills test every ten years to renew their certification?
39. Should people be allowed to keep exotic animals like chimpanzees or tigers?

40. Should people be allowed to keep pit-bull dogs?
41. Should the city offer a bike sharing program?
42. Should there be an ordinance citing people who fail to recycle \$50?
43. Should there be an ordinance citing people who play music too loudly \$50?
44. Should prostitution be legalized and regulated by the government?
45. Should celebrities who break the law face stricter penalties?
46. Should the government increase spending on the space program?
47. Should larger passengers have to pay for two plane or movie theater tickets?
48. Should children have to use booster seats in cars?
49. Should people have to get a license to become parents?
50. Should there be tougher federal restrictions for content on the internet?
51. Should people be allowed to curse on daytime television?
52. Should owners be legally accountable for clearing snow from sidewalks on their property?
53. Should sexual education be taught in public schools?
54. Should students be able to get free condoms at school?
55. Should students who commit cyber-bullying be suspended from school?
56. Should corporations be allowed to advertise in schools?
57. Should students be allowed to eat during class?
58. Should more be done to protect and preserve endangered animals?
59. Is it appropriate for students and teachers to be friends on Facebook?
60. Should students have open campus lunch periods?
61. Should abortions be legal?
62. Should abortions be legal in cases of rape and incest?
63. Should the death penalty be used to punish violent criminals?
64. Should students learn about world religions in public schools?
65. Should schools start later in the morning?
66. Should the USA end overseas military operations?
67. Should politicians be allowed to accept campaign contributions from corporate lobbyists?
68. Should people with terminal illnesses have the right to doctor assisted suicides?
69. Should Puerto Rico become a state?
70. Should stem cell researchers be able to use stem cells from aborted babies to cure diseases?
71. Should school athletes have to take drug tests?
72. Should professional athletes have to take drug tests?
73. Should America convert to the metric system?
74. Should high school students have to complete community service hours to graduate?
75. Should teens over 13 years of age be allowed into R rated movies?
76. Should state tests be given in other languages for ESL students?
77. Should scientists be allowed to test products intended for human use on animals?
78. Should unhealthy fast food products be sold with a warning label?
79. Should there be a tariff or tax on products manufactured outside of the country?

80. Should students or teachers receive money for scoring well on standardized tests?
81. Should everyone under the age of 17 have a 9:00 PM curfew?
82. Should schools with low scores on standardized tests be closed?
83. Should minors be allowed to drink alcoholic beverages in their homes with their parents' consent?
84. Should students be allowed to drop out before they turn 18 years old?
85. Should alcohol manufacturers be allowed to advertise on television?
86. Should students as young as fourteen be allowed to hold jobs?
87. Should American families have a two child max rule to limit population growth?
88. Should children younger than thirteen be allowed to watch MTV or music videos?
89. Should people who are caught driving drunk lose their licenses for a year?
90. Should students who fail their classes be retained and have to repeat the grade?
91. Should large businesses and corporations be required to employ a number of minorities proportionate to the population?
92. Should female construction workers earn the same wages as males?
93. Should children in temporary living situations with a 3.0 GPA earn free college tuition?
94. Should gambling and sports-betting be illegal or should the government regulate it?
95. Should children who commit violent crimes be tried as adults?
96. Should the government be allowed to detain suspected terrorists without trial?
97. Should the government censor internet content deemed inappropriate?
98. Should teachers have to wear uniforms or have a dress code?
99. Should teachers be allowed to have cell phones in the classroom?

### **Business**

1. How poor accounting methods cause businesses to lose money.

### **Constitutional Issues**

1. Does the government have the right to tax its citizens?
2. Torture is an acceptable measure to prevent terrorism.
3. Banning some books and movies can help society.
4. Guns should be made illegal.
5. The legal drinking age should be changed to 18 for hard liquor and spirits, and to 16 for beer and wine.
6. Should the government be able to access cell phone data?

### **Economy**

1. Paying waiters a hourly rate below minimum wage is unfair.
2. Illegal immigrants are good for the economy.
3. Decreasing the wealth tax is good for the economy.
4. What caused the recession in the USA?
5. Rich people should have tax breaks.

### **Education**

1. Should students sometimes teach the class about a subject they are an expert on?
2. Should schools offer sign language in addition to foreign languages?
3. Any student caught cheating on an examination should be automatically dismissed from college.
4. Should there be a dress code to prevent students from wearing revealing clothes?
5. Government aid for students should be based purely on academic performance.
6. Mobiles phones should be banned in schools for both students and teachers.
7. How No Child Left Behind has not been implemented correctly.
8. Foreign language instruction should begin in kindergarten.
9. College students should have the freedom to choose their own courses.
10. Should schools have single sex education?
11. Are academics and sports of equal importance?
12. Should teachers have to take a yearly test to keep their jobs?
13. Students should learn about world religions in public schools.
14. Should sports be made a compulsory subject in universities?
15. What are the benefits and drawbacks of school uniforms?
16. Hungry students cannot learn, which is why free meals should be provided.
17. Should students be held back for bad grades?
18. Do colleges put too much stock in standardized test scores?
19. Home education should only be allowed for medical reasons.
20. CPR and first aid instruction should be mandatory in schools.
21. Essays do not demonstrate a student's knowledge on a topic.
22. Should all students be randomly drug tested?

23. Educational computer games should be used in school.
24. Why the government should prevent violence in schools.
25. Teachers should wear uniforms or obey a dress code.
26. Why are sports trips paid for while club trips are not?
27. Music education should be placed back into schools.
28. Should teachers give out homework on the weekends?
29. Sex education should be required in all schools.
30. Exam scores do not reflect student performance.
31. Testing and choice are undermining education.
32. The benefits of attending a single-sex school.
33. State colleges should be free to attend.
34. There should be no religion in schools.
35. Education should be free for everyone.
36. Gender does not affect learning.
37. Smoking and drinking on campus should be banned.
38. Should homework be reduced?
39. The pros and cons of Common Core.
40. Exams should be abolished.
41. Grades are not important.
42. Why do we have homework?
43. Teachers should be punished for rude behavior to students.
44. Students should take a year off between college and high school.
45. Why we should learn more than one language.

### **Environment**

1. How the USA can use renewable energy, and what role oil companies can play.
2. How renewable energy technologies became economically and politically viable in the late 1990s.
3. Destruction of the world's forest is justified by human need for land and food.
4. The racing industry should be forced to use environmentally-friendly fuel.
5. The government should support and subsidize alternative energy sources.
6. Alternative energy and hybrid vehicles can help save our planet.
7. Penalties for crimes against the environment should be tougher.
8. Vegetarianism is an ecologically thoughtful lifestyle.
9. Has marine engineering increased pollution?
10. Working from home is good for the environment.
11. Rainforest logging should be banned.
12. Hunting is good for the environment.
13. The advantages of recycling water.

### **Ethics**

1. Should celebrities be held to a higher moral standard since they are often viewed as role models by children and teens?
2. Convicted prisoners should not have better living conditions than those not in prison.
3. Clothing and other items produced using child labor should not be imported and sold in the USA.
4. Denying health insurance because of pre-existing conditions violates human rights.
5. Using animals for scientific research is inhumane.
6. DNA experiments on human embryos are unethical and should not be allowed.
7. Zoos, aquariums, and circuses violate animal rights and should be shut down.
8. Are beauty pageants exploitive?
9. Should scientists bring back extinct species through cloning?
10. People should not be allowed to keep exotic animals as pets.
11. Should there be world population control?
12. Stand up for what is right, even if you stand alone.
13. Hunting is unethical and should not be allowed.
14. Everyone in the world should have civil rights!
15. Do you agree that honesty is the best policy?
16. Assassination can never be justified.
17. The sale of human organs should be legal.
18. Euthanasia is not morally acceptable.
19. Euthanasia should be legalized.
20. Is human cloning ethical?
21. Wearing fur is unethical.
22. We shouldn't eat meat.

### **Family**

1. Every family with children filing for divorce must go through a mandatory 'cooling off' period.
2. Adoptive parents should be legally bound to allow biological parents access to their children.
3. Should babies younger than one get their ears pierced?
4. Those who want children should take parenting classes and pass tests before having a child.
5. Both parents should assume equal responsibility in raising a child.
6. Strict parenting raises strong-hearted, resilient kids.
7. Why both parents should be a part of their child's life.
8. Do curfews keep teens out of trouble?
9. Why children should be respected.
10. Should we have to pay to adopt a child?
11. Teenagers should have more freedom than younger kids.
12. Should kids under 13 be allowed on social media sites?
13. Should children get to choose their living environment at age 13?
14. Should parents be held responsible for actions of their children?

### **Government**

1. Why veterans should have more government support.
2. Should the president have served in the military?
3. Is the American criminal justice system racist?
4. Democracy is the best form of government.
5. Women make better presidents.
6. Is our election process fair?

### **Health**

1. Tap water is safer than bottled water in countries where the quality of tap water is regulated.
2. Breastfeeding is one of the most important things a mother can do for a child.
3. Should children born with birth defects have surgery?
4. Lapses in food safety result from a complex interplay of factors.
5. Should fast food restaurants stop adding chemicals to their food?
6. Taxes should be imposed on unhealthy foods to combat obesity.
7. GMOs are bad for health and should be avoided at any cost.
8. Advertising of prescription drugs should not be allowed.
9. Fast food advertisements and promotions should be banned.
10. Terminally ill patients should be allowed to use heroin.
11. A vegetarian diet is as healthy as a diet containing meat.
12. Smoking a pipe is more harmful than smoking cigarettes.
13. Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) should be medicated.
14. Stretching before and after exercise is overrated.
15. Everyone should have free access to health care.
16. Knowing your ancestry is important for health.
17. Does access to condoms prevent teen pregnancy?
18. Eating meat and dairy is bad for your body.
19. Drug addiction is a disease not a choice.
20. Health risks of smoking are exaggerated.
21. Veganism is an unhealthy way to raise kids.
22. Health risks of smoking are exaggerated.
23. The need for teen depression prevention.
24. The Paleo diet can ruin your health.
25. Is laughter good for you?
26. All farmers should go organic.
27. The health benefits of marijuana.
28. Bread is bad for your health.
29. The dangers of herbal remedies.
30. The health benefits of avocados.
31. Running is unhealthy.

### **International Politics**

1. Driving speed limits should be lifted in areas with a low accident risk.
2. People who use file-sharing sites to download content illegally should be found and prosecuted.
3. Should the government give tax exemptions to those who drive electric or hybrid vehicles?
4. Elderly drivers should be required to take a driving test each year after a certain age.
5. Should colleges be allowed to use affirmative action to create a more diverse campus?
6. Garbage disposal should not be free to encourage recycling (example: Switzerland).
7. Salaries of actors, professional athletes and CEOs should be regulated and capped.
8. Any products that are believed to cause cancer should have a warning label.
9. Fast food, soda, chips and other unhealthy food should be heavily taxed.
10. Making drugs illegal creates an environment for crime and violence.
11. Should it be harder to get a divorce?
12. Should the death penalty exist?
13. Laws to protect the victims of domestic abuse should be enforced.
14. Pitbulls and other aggressive dog breeds should not be allowed.
15. Gay couples should have the same rights as heterosexual couples.
16. Should the EPA make it illegal to modify your car for racing?
17. DUI offenders should lose their license for a year.
18. Should you have to take a training class to purchase fireworks?
19. Workers should get four weeks paid vacation each year.
20. Plastic surgery should be illegal for anyone under 18.
21. Retirement should be made compulsory at the age of 60.
22. Abortions should be legal in cases of rape and incest.
23. The cost of prescription drugs should be regulated.
24. Couples should be banned from adopting overseas.
25. Banning smoking in public places is undemocratic.
26. Spaying and neutering pets should be mandatory.
27. Minors should be tried for murder at any age.
28. Voting should be compulsory for all citizens.
29. Illegal immigrants should receive asylum.
30. Organ donation should be mandatory.
31. Vaccinations should be compulsory.
32. Prostitution should be legalized.
33. Should abortion be made illegal?
34. The smoking age should be lowered.
35. The voting age should be lowered.
36. Why smoking should be banned.
37. Talking on the phone while driving should be banned.
38. There should be equal pay for equal work.



### **Media**

1. Reality television makes people stupid and should be regulated.
2. Does media violence lead to behavioral problems?
3. TV cop shows are too intense for children.
4. Watching television makes people smarter.
5. Are kids having too much screen time?
6. Is watching TV good or bad for children?
7. Has the television become obsolete?
8. Reality TV is not reality.
9. Vulgar scenes in films should be reduced.

### **Music**

1. Can anyone play an instrument with the right materials and instruction?
2. The beneficial physiological effects of music.

### **Politics**

1. Americans should not get involved in conflicts that don't concern the national interest.
2. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid reform are non-negotiable ways out of the debt crisis.
3. Famous people (actors, athletes) should not be allowed to become politicians.
4. Is the government doing justice to the taxpayers?

### **Psychology**

1. Why people should smile when they're happy, and pretend they are happy when feeling sad.
2. Our identity is shaped by how others view us.
3. The benefits of having friends.

### **Relationships**

1. Does age matter in relationships?
2. Social networks are killing sincere relationships.
3. Polygamy creates healthy relationships.

### **Religion**

1. If nothing happens without a cause, then the big bang must have been caused by God.
2. Why it is better to have many religions.
3. Banning burkhas or other religious clothing is against human rights.
4. The world would be more peaceful without religions.
5. Churches should be required to pay taxes.
6. Are there any alternatives to evolution?
7. Religion is a force for evil.

### **Society**

1. Permits should not be needed to build small, permanent structures in the city of Baldwin.
2. Technological progress signifies the decline of human moral, spiritual, and traditional values.
3. Men and women face unequal pressure to change their bodies to look good.
4. Sexual immorality in our society is a result of the influence of foreign films.
5. People are not satisfied with what they have.
6. Compulsory military service is good for society and the country.
7. Christmas is just a way for businesses to increase sales.
8. Billboards should not be allowed on interstate highways.
9. Men should be forced to take paternity leave from work.
10. Violent video games and toys should not be allowed.
11. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger.
12. How people are judged by their skin color.
13. How parents don't understand our generation.
14. Hollywood has a negative impact on society.
15. The taboo on recreational drugs is unjustified.
16. The negative effects of racism.
17. Why do people believe in superstitions?
18. Privacy is not the most important right.
19. The negative effects of selfishness.
20. Are nursing homes necessary in our society?
21. Do we still live in a sexist society?
22. Does social status matter?
23. The Miss America pageant is sexist.
24. How to stop cyber bullying.
25. Is laziness a good thing?
26. Is life in the city preferable to live life in the country?

### **Technology**

1. Students should not have to learn cursive because technology is making it irrelevant.
2. Social media has changed us for the worse.
3. Modern technology has increased material wealth but not happiness.
4. Has the internet made research easier and more convenient?
5. How nuclear power shaped 21st century electrical generation.
6. Technology makes us lose most of our traditions and culture.
7. Life was better when technology was more simple.
8. Human beings are becoming slaves of modern technology.
9. Is the internet a good or a bad thing?
10. Technology is making people less creative.
11. The positive effects of technology on society.
12. Are phones essential?
13. Nuclear power is better than solar power.
14. New technologies create problems.
15. The impact of technology on society.

16. How electronics affect our body.
17. The pros and cons of Facebook.
18. The pros and cons of plastic.
19. Are children smarter or more socialized because of the internet?