

Name: _____

Date: _____

6B- _____

Speaking: Pet Peeve Speech — Directions

It's June. The sweet sounds of summer surround you. Warm breezes nonchalantly stroll into your classroom, daring anyone not to notice that, hey, let's face it, nothing really matters now — not school, not teachers, not grades. Nothing, because you've just finished another year of "your education." You've just managed to survive Essay Boot Camp and The Battle of Reading. You've just reached that point of the year when it's time, not to study vocabulary, not to stay after school for extra help, and not to get up early for school, but instead to celebrate the upcoming so-called "brain drain" of summer, when everything you've learned during the dark days from September to June finally stops crowding your brain and takes a vacation of its own to a far-away place called Needless Information and Useless Knowledge. So, instead of cramming one more time, you're envisioning yourself on a beach in an exotic location, a tropical destination, when — brace yourself — from out of the sand pops a head — your English teacher's head! — blabbing on about "clarity and volume." Or maybe you're not the beach type, so you're envisioning yourself bathed in the warm light of a computer screen, gaming your way through level after level, stalking through worlds of warcraft, when you look through the scope of your gun and spot, not just any enemy combatant, but no less than your camouflaged English teacher, eye black and all, barking orders into a microphone embedded somewhere in his shoulder, stitched right into his fatigues. You only hear, "...one to two minutes in length..." Then, "...your last big grade of the year..." It's not right. It's not possible. It's a gross injustice! No, it's the pet peeve speech!

Task: Deliver a persuasive speech in which you do the following:

Name and discuss one of your "pet peeves," convincing your audience that you're paying close attention to the world around you and that you know exactly *what* bothers you and *why*. **A pet peeve is a minor annoyance, not a serious problem.** Accordingly, **your speech should not be too serious**; it should be based on a behavior or an activity — not on a person, a group of people, a culture, a religion, etc.

Time: 1-2 minutes

Delivery Dates: _____

Speech:

Your speech should be on a topic that really bugs you. It should concern your personal feelings about something that annoys or frustrates you, a "pet peeve" or personal nuisance like having to share a bedroom with someone or people who leave dried-out toothpaste in the sink. Your pet peeve is something that gets under your skin for specific reasons that you can explain clearly and convincingly so that your audience at least understands your feelings or at best "feels your pain." Try to come up with a topic that will make your audience nod along with you because they get it.

Choosing a Topic:

Brainstorm a list of topics that might work for your speech. Narrow down your list to two or three of the best possible pet peeves. For each possible pet peeve, consider your support. If, for example, you narrow your list of possibilities to people who tap, people who let doors close behind them, and people who blast music from their cars, then you should provide a long list of reasons each pet peeve is annoying or examples that will help your audience relate to your pet peeve. Finally, look at your list, and choose the pet peeve that you can discuss most convincingly. You'll need 10 notes for the pet peeve that you discuss in your speech. Basically, to prepare, you should use the following procedure:

- Brainstorm topics
- Narrow topics
- Brainstorm supporting details for *each* of your topics
- Select a topic

*Your speech should NOT—in any way, not even indirectly or by suggestion—hurt, scare, or otherwise harm or discriminate against anyone.

***You may NOT choose homework, school, tests, grades, teachers, or fellow students as your topic.** Instead, **discuss issues that exist outside of school.** Remember, this is NOT about criticism. It's more about harmless venting.

Organizing Your Speech: Once you choose a topic, think it over and organize your speech. Think of this speech as a chance to “blow off steam.” However, in doing so, you must also convince your audience that you have a good reason to feel bothered by something. The tone of this speech should be light and maybe even humorous, not serious and certainly not aggressive.

In a sense, your speech is like an argument, almost like an essay, so organize it like this:

I. Intro: Start with a “capture,” which is like a hook. After your capture, give some “background” on your topic, similar to the way you would for the “line” of an essay. Then state your pet peeve in clear and simple terms; this is similar to a thesis.

B. Body: In the body of your speech, you need to provide support for your feelings. For example, if you find second-hand smoke annoying, you need to give good support for your position. **You need specific reasons for your pet peeve.** To organize the support for your pet peeve speech, you might put your reasons in one of the following formats:

- from *least* to *most* annoying
- from *amusing* to deeply *aggravating*
- from *most* to *least* obvious
- in the order that your pet peeve usually occurs (time / chronological)

C. Conclusion: End your speech with a “close,” which is like an insight statement. Here, you wrap up your speech with a memorable statement that captures the essence of what bothers you. Tie your “close” to your “capture,” like H.I.S (hook to insight).

Preparing for Your Speech: A well-organized speech is most convincing when you deliver it with confidence, volume, eye contact, enthusiasm, and poise (calmness). So rehearse your speech. Make sure you know what you’re saying. If you’re nervous, practice until you feel prepared. But don’t rehearse too much. Practice to make sure you have enough to say. Practice so you regularly meet the time limit. Practice to get rid of “umm’s,” the jitters, and the swaying. But **I don’t recommend that you memorize your speech word-for-word.** In fact, **I don’t recommend that you write out your speech at all.**

Instead, I recommend that you simply practice your speech by reading the notes on your outline and expanding on them off the top of your head until you no longer need your outline to remember your speech. You need to be animated (lively) and natural, not stiff and robotic.

Index Card: During your speech, you may use an index card with the following: your **entire capture**, word-for-word; **10 key words** from your supporting details; and your **entire close**, word-for-word. But you may *not* use your full outline. Yes, you may write your capture and close in sentence form, but otherwise you may only have 10 words total.

Presentation: As you deliver your speech, you need to “feel it” if you want your audience to feel it. If you memorize your speech, you risk sounding flat. Instead, try to be “in the moment.” Listen to what you’re saying. Hear what it means and try to put emotion behind the words. You’re supposed to feel frustrated. Show it, whether you use sarcasm, “woe-is-me” body language, or self-deprecating humor (poking fun at your own pathetic attempts to deal with your pet peeve). When you speak, your audience engages not only with your words but also with the sound of your voice, your facial expressions, your gestures, and the way you hold yourself. Practice your gestures and your body language. Get into character for this speech!

Deadlines:

Choose topic, outline speech: _____

Practice speech from outline: _____

Practice speech from card: _____

Deliver speech _____