

Group Discussion

So that you may most effectively plan to achieve the final grade for the quarter that you wish to achieve, consider the following:

- Group Discussion speeches are a maximum of three minutes in length. In order to be considered for credit, speeches must be at least two minutes long.
- Group Discussion speeches are based upon research, not *B.S.* (broad speculation). You will earn only half the number of points accumulated on any speech if you do not cite research sources in *each* main point.
- Points are earned for Group Discussion speeches according to the outline on the back of this sheet. Follow it closely and maximize your points for each presentation.
- Students who chair for Group Discussion may earn as many as seventeen points for chairing and may speak on the motion of their chair day on make up day to earn even more points.
- The Group Discussion unit is worth sixty points. As a general rule, you must present four, high quality (fifteen point) speeches in order to ensure an A for group discussion, not for the quarter. You may, however, present as many speeches as you wish to earn the grade you want.
- A plethora of extra credit is available this quarter. Once you've earned the necessary fifty-four points for an A, all points above sixty are extra credit!

We shall present group discussion speeches according to the following timetable:

Motion 1: Fri., May 8

Motion 2: Tues., May 12

Motion 3: Thurs., May 14

Motion 4: Mon., May 18

Motion 5: Wed., May 20

Motion 6: Fri., May 22

Make-up Day: Wed., May 27

Grading Scale
54--60, A
48--53, B
42--47, C
36--41, D

- On make up day, students who chaired a motion, had an excused absence, or did not speak because time ran out in class will have the opportunity to present speeches on the motion they missed. **Only these reasons will permit speeches on make-up day.**

Group Discussion Speech Structure

The group discussion speech is divided into several parts:

1. **Attention Getter**--Begin the speech with a quotation if you want full credit. Identify the source of the quotation *before* you say the quotation. If the audience won't recognize the source, provide credentials.

2. **Purpose Statement**--This is where you say the resolution. At the end of the attention getter, it sounds like this: *"Because I agree with the words of ***, I stand affirmatively resolved that Wellington High School provides an open campus for lunch."*

3. **Overview**--In the new step, you'll name your three main points before you develop them in the body. Tied with the purpose statement, it sounds like this: ["That Wellington High School provides an open campus for lunch] *for three important reasons: students' attitudes will improve, local business owners will benefit, and crowding in the cafeteria will be reduced.*"

4. **Split Body**--Now it's time to develop, explain, support, and prove your main ideas with facts, quotations, statistics, and stories. Factual development is the key in group discussion. Following the purpose statement, it begins with, *"Let's look at that first area, now: students' attitudes will improve."* Now, it's up to you. Develop, explain, and support. Convince the audience that your side is best. You MUST cite sources in each main point if you want to earn more than half credit.

5. **Underview**--Review those three main points with no more elaboration. The underview is really the summary conclusion we've been stopping with until now. *"Obviously, then, because students' attitudes will improve, local business owners will benefit, and crowding in the cafeteria will be reduced, I urge your affirmative vote."* Remember to urge the audience to vote for your side.

6. **Conclusion**--Finish off well since most people remember best what they hear last. A final quotation will drive your point home and will earn you full credit for the conclusion. Say something like this: *"In the words of Alachua County Superintendent Joe Barton, 'We want our kids to love school. Sometimes that means giving them a break from the campus and letting them have a few minutes in the outside world.'"*