

# Homework #1: Brainstorming Worksheet

**Instructions:** You do not need to type this homework on a separate paper. You can write your answers directly on this sheet if you like. It will be checked in class. You do not need to tear it out of your syllabus.

What are your hobbies or interests? List them below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Interview five of your friends or family members. What are their hobbies or experiences that might lead to good speech topics?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Brainstorm at least three sub-topics for **all** of the following Broad Topic Areas. Fill in each cell.

Education	Sports	Money
Health	Science	Recreation
Relationships	Technology	Work
Environment	Art	Law

### Homework #2: Speech Development Brainstorming

Directions: Chose two potential informative speech topics and two potential persuasive speech topics. For each topic, write 5 questions that you think might be answered in a good speech on that topic. So, you will ultimately produce four lists of five questions each. You do not need to provide answers for these questions at this time. The purpose of this assignment is to show you how speeches are really just a series of answers to questions that the audience would have about your topic. Type your homework to be turned in. These are not necessarily your speech topics.

### Homework #3: Library Research

Description: Conduct library research on one potential informative and one potential persuasive speech topic. Find five sources for each topic by using the SMC online library database system and book catalog. Find two newspaper articles, one book, and two journal or magazine articles. **Website sources will not earn any credit.** I am not interested in your ability to look at latimes.com or newsweek.com. The purpose of this assignment is to force you to learn how to use non-website sources. Your sources should be written as complete citations in MLA style. I recommend that you use EasyBib.com to create a Works Cited list for the sources for each speech. Incomplete citations of sources and citations not in MLA style will not receive full credit. Type your homework to be turned in.

### Homework #4: Argument Development exercise

Description: Write two arguments. They should not be related to each other, and they do not have to be related to the topics you have developed previously. Write a claim, provide a reason for an audience to accept that claim, and then support that reason with credible published evidence and a complete citation in MLA style. **Website sources will not receive credit.** The claim should be a clear policy claim, not a fact or value claim. The reason should answer the question "why should we do this," which is what the audience will ask when confronted with a policy claim. The research and evidence makes the argument more credible. It is not enough to only put a citation of a source. That is not evidence. That is only a source. Evidence is some fact, quote, example, etc. that you find by reading that source.

### Homework #5: Public Argument Analysis

Description: Public arguments take place every day in the form of Letters to the Editor of newspapers, magazines, and websites. Being able to identify a Letter that makes an argument and to analyze that argument is the focus of this assignment. Find a Letters to the Editor in a newspaper or news magazine, making sure it clearly employs an argument. Analyze the letter to identify the central claim, and the reason(s) offered (if any) to support that claim. Then, discuss in 100-200 words whether those arguments are logical or illogical – complete or incomplete. Give your opinion on their strength. Type your work to be turned in, and include a copy of the Letter.