Speak Up: Unit Overview

ENG2D, Grade 10 Academic English, Unit 3. 13 classes of 75 minutes (about three weeks).

The big question

What makes words powerful enough to change minds?

Students analyse famous public-domain speeches and everyday persuasion, learn to spot fallacies, then build their own argument as a persuasive essay and a three-minute talk on an issue they care about.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**Convince Me**	1	How do speakers win us over?	OC 1.7, 2.1, 2.4; R 1.7	30 second challenge; appeal sorter; fix the argument
2	**Rhetoric Bingo**	1	What makes words stick?	OC 1.7, 1.9, 2.4; R 2.3	Device glossary; bingo with the Gettysburg Address
3	**Whose Fourth of July?**	1	How does perspective change a celebration?	OC 1.7, 1.8; R 1.8, 2.3	Douglass (1852); silent written conversation
4	**Two Truths**	1	Who gets to tell your story?	OC 1.7, 1.8; R 1.7, 1.8	Sojourner Truth's two versions, with audio; reliability vote
5	**Fallacy Detective**	1	How do you spot a bad argument?	OC 1.7, 1.8; R 1.7; W 1.5	Fictional comment thread; spot-it game; repair shop
6	**Build the Case**	1	What makes an argument strong?	R 1.7; W 1.3, 1.4, 1.5	Anthony (1873) as a model; evidence log; counter and rebut
7	**Shark Tank**	1	Can you persuade in 60 seconds?	OC 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4	Team pitches to student sharks with fake money
8	**The Persuasive Essay**	2	How do you map an argument?	W 1.4, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7	Thesis ladder; transitions; peer revision (summative)
9	**Delivery Lab**	1	How do you make words land?	OC 1.9, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7	Voice and body drills; slide makeover
10	**Talk Prep**	1	How is talking different from writing?	OC 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1	Essay to talk; cue cards; rehearsal trios
11	**Talk Days**	2	Can you change minds in three minutes?	OC 2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1	Three-minute talks with audience cards (summative)

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Assessment

Type	In this unit
Assessment for learning	Exit tickets, appeal sorter, bingo cards, evidence log and shark scorecards
Assessment as learning	Silent conversation, repair shop, peer revision, rehearsal feedback and speaker reflection
Assessment of learning	Persuasive essay (Writing) and three-minute persuasive talk (Oral), with rubrics in the Summative Tasks document

The speeches

All four speeches are in the public domain. Choose excerpts and print free copies; they are not included in this package.

- **Gettysburg Address** by Abraham Lincoln (1863): about 270 words; the Library of Congress holds the original drafts
- **“What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?”** by Frederick Douglass (1852): choose an excerpt
- **Sojourner Truth's 1851 speech** in both versions: thesojournertruthproject.com/compare-the-speeches
- **“Is It a Crime for a Citizen of the United States to Vote?”** by Susan B. Anthony (1873): choose an excerpt

You can add modern talks of your choice, previewed for your class.

What's in each lesson

- Teacher lesson plan with expectations, timed sequence, differentiation, look-fors and answer guides
- Slides with speaker notes
- Student handouts and organizers
- Editable Word and PowerPoint files, plus PDFs

Links were checked in November 2026.

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