

Trial Scene: To Kill A Mockingbird

Your group's task is to prepare both the counsel for the defence and the counsel for the prosecution of Tom Robinson. You will need to carefully plan your speeches on paper as you will then be presenting them to the rest of the class (or 'the jury!') The jury will then vote on which of your two speeches was the most convincing.

When preparing your speeches you will need to consider the following:

- Who is your audience? What do they know about the trial? What information do you want to give them? What specific reactions do you want from them?
- Gather information on your subject. You should already have the majority of your information in the 'For and Against' chart completed earlier.
- Group your ideas into paragraphs. Which area will you cover in each paragraph? How will you link your paragraphs?

How will you grab your audience's attention? Some top tips:

1. Your opening lines will be crucial. How will you immediately attract your audience's attention, set out your argument and let them know what is to come in your speech?
2. Ask rhetorical questions (questions to which you do not expect an answer). There are two different types:
a) where you can give the audience the answer, or b) the question has an in-built, 'common-sense' answer.
3. Use a range of pronouns i.e. 'I', 'you', 'we', 'they'. 'You' and 'we' are particularly powerful as they draw the audience into the speech, making them feel as though they are part of it.
4. Using lists of words can be particularly effective, such as adjectives ("our lives are miserable, laborious and short") or nouns ("To that horror we must all come - cows, pigs, hens, sheep, everyone.")
5. Repetition of important words or phrases can add emphasis.
6. Make use of emotive language - try to provoke a strong emotion in your audience, such as anger, fear, disgust, hatred.
7. Build up to a climax. Plan your final paragraph carefully. It has to be the point towards which you have been arguing for the whole of the speech.

Performing Your Speeches

In your group prepare a reading aloud of your two speeches to the rest of the class (the jury). Doing this will help you understand the sound and power of a speech, and how speakers communicate with their audience.

Follow these stages:

- Divide the speeches between the members of your group. Everyone must read a section as you will be being assessed. Organise your readings in such a way as it still makes sense - don't just divide it up into equal 'portions'.
- Consider carefully how you will read the various sections of the speech. Identify the techniques which you have used and discuss the ways in which they will be best communicated. You may find the chart below helpful:

Speaker's Name	Notes
Rise/fall of voice	
Variations in speed	
Use of stress	
Use of rhythm	
Building climaxes	
Use of pauses	
Eye contact	
Gesture	
Body language	
Rapport with audience	

When you have considered how you are going to read your speeches, prepare a practice reading aloud. You should watch and listen to each others performances within your group and give each other guidance.