

Sample Policy Questions for Persuasive Speeches

NOTE: THESE ITEMS HAVE BEEN USED IN SPEECHES AND DEBATES FOR MANY YEARS. WHILE THEY APPEAR IN QUESTION FORM, THEY ACTUALLY ARE PROPOSITIONS – AND CAN EASILY BE EXPRESSED AS POLICY STATEMENTS: “SHOULD BEGGING BE PERMITTED ON PUBLIC STREETS?” CAN BE EXPRESSED AS “BEGGING SHOULD [NOT] BE BANNED FROM PUBLIC STREETS.”

Should native Americans (Canadians, Hawaiians, etc.) be treated differentially?

Should gay couples be given the same legal rights as heterosexuals in adopting children?

Should couples be banned from adopting children overseas?

Should there be a ban on television advertising aimed at children?

Should a native tongue (Spanish, French, etc.) take precedence in schools whose students are not native English speakers?

Should the sale and consumption of alcohol be further restricted, or even banned?

Is it morally acceptable to experiment on non-human animals to develop products and medicines that benefit human beings?

Should human beings be allowed to use other animals as objects of sport and entertainment? (Hunting, circuses,

deep-sea fishing, horse/dog racing, bull fighting, etc.)

Should the medical profession force-feed anorexics as part of their treatment?

Should the present ban on exploiting the resources of the Antarctic, restricting it to a "natural reserve, devoted to peace and science," be maintained?

Should a police force be routinely armed?

Should government subsidy of the arts be ended?

Should assisted suicide be legalized?

Should the attorney-client privilege be abolished?

Should news broadcasters be required to be balanced and impartial in their reporting of events?

Should cheerleaders be banned from performing at professional sporting events?

Should the government bail out banks and financial institutions?

Are beauty contests harmful?

Are beauty contests for children a form of child abuse?

Are biofuels a better alternative to fossil fuels? Should their use be encouraged by government regulations and subsidy?

Should the right of citizenship for all children born in the United States, regardless of the immigration status of their parents, be removed?

Should blood sports (bullfighting, dog fighting, etc.) be banned worldwide?

Should boxing be banned?

Are random breath tests for drivers a good idea?

Should the Fairness Doctrine be reintroduced for radio and TV in the USA?

Should worldwide calendars be standardized (to the International Fixed Calendar or the Perpetual Calendar, for example) ?

Should cameras be placed in federal courtrooms so that all trials can be televised?

Should limits or regulations be placed on how candidates raise funds, and/or spend them, during political campaigns?

Should employees or administrators of federal regulatory agencies be prohibited from entering a financial relationship with a company formerly regulated (such as employees of the Federal Reserve being prohibited from going to work for a national or international bank)?

Should market approaches (such as price of fuel) be used to reduce carbon emissions, rather than regulatory approaches (such as CAFÉ - Corporate Average Fuel

Economy standards)?

Should celebrities have protection (qualified privilege) from the media in America? [In Britain, for example, media can be sued for making false statements about celebrities.]

The Securing the Protection of our Enduring and Established Constitutional Heritage (SPEECH) Act unnecessarily complicates US libel law. [It is a bill passed by the 111th United States Congress, and it makes foreign libel judgments unenforceable in the United States unless they are compliant with the US First Amendment. The bill is a response to libel tourism and creates a new cause of action against the foreign libel plaintiff and provide for damages if the foreign plaintiff acted to deprive an American of his or her right to free speech.]

What is the right balance to strike between freedom of and restrictions upon artistic expression?

MMA should be regulated.

Tattooing of minors, even if they're accompanied by a legal guardian and/or have obtained written consent from a legal guardian, should be banned.

Should "Reality Television" be significantly curtailed?

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), and National Public Radio (NPR) are no longer needed in their present form.

Should we believe in Santa?

Should all children be taught self-defense in school?

Are so-called Big Box Stores a threat to American communities?

Should Jason Van Hoose's proposal (originally by Sam Moffie) to establish a Mafia Museum as a Youngstown destination be supported?

Should TV programs for pre-school viewers such as "Teletubbies" be banned or significantly curtailed?