

# Persuasive Speeches

## *Climate Change*



We all know that climate change is becoming a greater threat to life on Earth, and how we use our remaining fossil fuels could be vital to how our lives now, and how our children's futures are affected. Do you want your family to live a little more freely, and spend less time worrying about the dangers of climate change, or have to spend their lives trying to reverse the dangerous mistakes that we are continuing to make now?

The environment is the source of all life on Earth. Our lives are dependent on the environment in many different ways. For example, trees and plants increase the level of oxygen in the air around us, which makes it easier for us to breathe and focus. In addition, human beings need food, water and shelter to survive. However, since the Industrial Revolution, society has begun to burn more fossil fuels and cut down more trees. Trees and forests are vital to our planet and our atmosphere, but last year, there were approximately ten billion trees cut down to make way for new houses, new roads, and new agricultural land.

Governments are beginning to make changes, but are they going far enough? The 2015 Paris Climate Accords ensure that countries limit the amount of carbon dioxide they produce per year. On a global scale, some transnational corporations such as Amazon, have committed to making their business more climate friendly. All of this may seem quite remote from our daily lives, but there are small measures we can take to make a difference. There are seven billion people on this planet; if we all make changes, together we can all make a difference. Even something as simple as reducing harmful air travel, reusing plastic bags, and recycling used paper can have a positive effect. This was seen during the early stages of lockdown, when scientists found that carbon dioxide levels had fallen significantly in cities across Europe, because people were not allowed to travel.

The measures we take to combat climate change do not need to be as dramatic as this. However, they are just as urgent. The next five years will be crucial in reducing the amount of carbon dioxide and other pollutants in our environment. Seven billion people, one small change: together, we can make a difference.

**Lucy, S**

# Persuasive Speeches

## *Climate Change*



Our planet is suffering, we are dying. Let's all play our part in reducing the rate of climate change. Climate change is the long-term changes in weather patterns because of Biotic processes, solar radiation, plate tectonics and human activity. You as a human can transform this disaster to provide a life worth living for your future generations and much-loved family. Do not be arrogant, open your eyes to the fact our earths at deaths door.

Our planet is suffering. This global crisis is affecting everyone around the world. In the last couple of decades, excess rainfall, droughts, hurricanes, and floods have increased massively and wont stop getting worse unless we help. According to scientists there are several climate factors that play into wildfires and many other disasters. Firefighters in northern California worked for days to help in the devastating and record-breaking wildfire that killed at least 40 people. Why aren't we doing anything about it?

There is more than enough evidence proving climate change is an instant threat to us all, and there are plenty of things individuals like you, can do to help mitigate it. Firstly, try replacing fossil fuels like oil, carbon, and natural gases with renewable and cleaner sources of energy, like using wind and solar power. You may think it's expensive but it's becoming increasingly cheap across the world, some already very cost effective.

Kimberly Nicholas who is associate professor of sustainability science says "We need to cut CO2 emissions almost in half (45%) by the end of the next decade," Please listen, react, respond, to those like Kimberly, who are educated on this subject. In 2013, Fossil fuel emissions were 60% above emissions in 1990. Our earth can't endure this much longer, we must try our best to reverse our wrong.

Going car-free is another effective action an individual could take to reduce climate change. Cars are more polluting compared to other means of transportation like walking, biking, or using public transport. Next time you are going to drive the park or school, or work or lunch, think. Think about the effect that is having to our planet.

Also, the food industry, especially meat and dairy is one of the biggest contributors to climate change, so try changing your diet to vegetarian or even better vegan! This can be healthier for you and for our planet. You may also be thinking, if I swap to renewable energy, eat less meat or take fewer flights or choose to cycle somewhere, that is just me - how much of a difference can that really make? Social scientists have found that when one person makes a sustainability-oriented decision, other people do too. For example, an online survey showed that respondents who know someone who had given up flying because of climate change, half of them said they flew less as a result. So tell your friends, spread your knowledge!

You have the facts right in front of you, but not everyone is changing. Why? It is not difficult to play your part in this battle against climate change. We need to move forward to a better healthier way living, I am sure your capable of it. Let's all fight together before it's too late, Let's put an end to the suffering our planet is facing!

Thankyou,

**Rosie B**

# Persuasive Speeches

## *Climate Change*



Hello all, I am here to discuss global warming, the single greatest environmental challenge that planet Earth is facing. So, let me explain the problem, the fuel we use to power our homes, our cars, businesses are causing the Earth to warm too fast.

Climate change is real. The rise in global temperatures over the last several decades is a matter of public record. There is overwhelming scientific evidence that can only be explained by one thing: The rise in greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activities.

Power plants and industries produce carbon dioxide which stays in the atmosphere for five decades or more. This is the reason why the temperature of the Earth is rising. Due to this rise in temperature, the oceans are rising, and coral reefs are dying, many aquatic species are going, the glaciers are melting. Moreover, extreme weather patterns are for everyone to see.

The time is now to do something to prevent global warming, otherwise it will be irreversible. It's not as bad as you think, it's worse.

Here's another inconvenient truth, not only is global warming happening, it may be speeding up. We need to collectively act right now instead of waiting for more.

Electricity and transportation contribute largely to global warming, so we must begin there, we must all come together to tackle this as a whole. Every home, business, industries effort is required to stop this crisis.

We must work to adopt a greener and healthier lifestyle. Try to drive less and walk more or take public transport. Get into habit of recycling and avoid unnecessary wastage of goods. Save electricity by switching off appliances when not in use. Most importantly plant trees, just a single tree can absorb one tonne of carbon dioxide in its lifetime.

And remember the change begins with you!

**Alice H**

# Persuasive Speeches

## Video Games



Dear ministers,

I am speaking on behalf of the public as to why violent video games should be banned.

Over 60% of children that play video games, play violent ones. How have you let this happen? You have stolen these children's lives; you have put their education at risk because you did not react to this situation sooner.

Their education is crumbling.

Their education is failing because of your actions.

This is simply unacceptable.

You say you understand and realise the severity of this problem but do you actually? It is obvious that you clearly do not appreciate how big of a problem this is. If you want these children to have a brighter future, you must recognize what I am saying.

You must agree that children's mental health and wellbeing is one of the most important things. Violent video games impact these children negatively and it dramatically effects their mental health. They are becoming addicted and this needs to be turned around or there will be consequences.

Many people think that playing violent video games helps children to express their emotions and to express their anger. But we all know that it does the exact opposite and makes them more aggressive and violent.

They are having negative thoughts, and this effects their family as well as others around them. This is simply unacceptable and if you do not act now, education will not come first in these children's lives, video games will.

50% of children that play violent video games have sleep deprivation. This is because the blue light stimulates their brain into thinking it is awake when it should be resting. This is again unacceptable; these children are not being able to concentrate at school and this needs to change.

Many people think that it only effects the performance of the brain, but it also affects the structure of the brain. By playing violent games, it alters the neural structure that is associated with happiness, learning and motivation. We will not let you get away with this. It needs to be put right.

A survey was taken in Singapore to test how violent video games could affect these children's academic performance. They were then asked to complete an assignment for the teacher straight after. Over 65% of these children did not have the motivation and energy to fully complete it. This shows how much of an impact violent video games have on them.

I know that from today onwards your attitude towards violent video games will change and I am confident that you will take action to ban them. I urge you to educate others on the negative impact that this has on children and to begin to broaden your understanding on this topic.

**Issy M**

# Persuasive Speeches

## *Banning Guns*



Picture this, you are a student in a school, you are sitting quietly in your classroom and then you hear a bang down the corridor. You know in your heart that it wasn't just an ordinary bang of someone dropping their books, you know that it was a gunshot. Your heartbeat starts to speed up as screams break out and people start to hide under the desks. Imagine this was you. How would you feel? Would you feel angry? Scared? Sad?

I am going to be talking about banning easy and free access to guns.

In America it is so easy obtain a gun. You could go to a supermarket and pay for a gun over the counter. This is why so many shootings occur at places such as schools, shopping centres and many more. Already this year, there has been 34 school shootings recorded. This needs to change. We need to change. This is not acceptable. Innocent children are being killed so often. Just think about all the family's that are losing their children. Think about how they would feel. How does this make you feel?

If the Government agreed to ban guns, here's how it would help save lives everyday... For starters the communities would be a lot safer than they are now, because you wouldn't have to always be scared. Hundreds of children could still be alive. It makes me sad to read about it on the news or on the internet. It makes me sad to have to talk about this.

In the UK to be able to have a gun, you have to have background checks for mental health issues, terrorism links and financial issues, and even then, to get a license you have to pass those checks. My point is that it is much harder to be allowed to have a gun legally in the UK than it is in America. Of course, people still sell and buy guns illegally but its hard to stop that.

Did you know that every day almost 32 Americans are killed by a gun. Your neighbour or your friend could be one of those 32 people if we don't do something about this. Everyday around 8 children die from gun shootings.

The FBI in America estimate that there were 16,929 murders which in itself is a lot and they were people who were killed by guns in 2007. But 68% died because of being shot it so many lives lost. Some people don't understand why this happens. In fact, a lot of people don't understand. People may shoot others because they want revenge on loosing a family member and many other reasons.

There is a story of a young boy and his sister, the little boy wanted to play on the X-box but his sister wouldn't let him have the controller. So, he got found a gun in his house and shot her. Not realising that it would actually kill her because he was only little. This proves that people have influence on kids without even realising. When I read this story, I was shocked and I'm sure many of you would be. Which goes to show another reason why the Government should ban free access to guns.

Overall, I think you can all understand why I am talking about this and telling you all these things. I think you all understand why the government need to do something about this. To many lives are being lost everyday from being shot, and its not ok. Thank you for listening to my speech about banning guns.

**Imogen S**

# Persuasive Speeches

## *US Gun Control*



In the same time, it will take me to complete my talk today, one person will have been killed from a gun related incident in the US. Something must be done to stop this mindless slaughter of innocent lives. If America adapts to tighter gun control, young lives will be saved, and mass shooting will become a thing of the past. By November of last year 45 school shootings had occurred. Bear in mind that was over 46 weeks. That nearly averages out to one a week. Do you think this is okay? So many children and teens have died within those 46 weeks due to these shootings. All of these deaths could have been prevented.

How is it possible that America has 300 guns laws, yet a young teen can easily buy a gun and mentally unstable adults can buy firearms without any problem. This is not right! This is why there is so much fear in America.

My friend has experienced fear first-hand, she was in Florida in a supermarket and an elderly man near her had a gun in his pocket, at any moment this man could have opened fire at the other people in this supermarket. This needs to change. Children should not have to grow up in an environment with the ever-present, danger of death hanging over them like a fog.

A wind of change needs to happen if America can be great again! Donald Trump needs to curb the NRA's power to influence and make real change. There are many reasons why so many Americans carry firearms. Not least because it is a constitutional right for all Americans to bear arms. But, a worrying and perhaps growing reason that many Americans chose to carry a gun is through fear of the Police. The Police killed over 1000 fathers, mothers, sons and daughters in 2019. The vast majority of these people were shot to death. 1098 deaths over 365 days averages out to at least 3 deaths per day.

An American citizen said, "And a gun is cheap insurance against that". He is talking about the police and how he fears them and how he fears others who carry guns, he carries a gun to protect him from these people. This needs to change.

America needs tighter gun control, making it much harder for individuals to buy firearms. Currently it is possible to buy a gun without background checks or time controls. 64% of US murders are by handguns. The prices of these handguns make them easily available to almost anyone. A handgun can cost as little as \$200 which is £151 this is around the same price as a Chromebook laptop.

An 11-year-old and a 13-year-old boy in 1998, killed 5 people and injured 10 in a school shooting, yet were released from jail at the age of 21. This needs to change. These children managed to get their hands on a gun and ammunition without any issues. Why is this possible?

Those 5 people had their own lives to live but couldn't due to these young boys bringing guns into school. These young boys got to go out and live their lives again at 21 yet the other five people had their lives taken from them with no hesitation.

These people didn't have a choice. They didn't get to pick if they would survive the bullet. They didn't get to have a family of their own. This is unacceptable.

We are the next generation that should be able to bring up our children and create a safe environment for our family. How can we do this when we see that a school shooting has happened on the news? We need to speak up. For our future children. And other young children all around the world. How can we live in a world where young teens and adults are killed by immature and attention deprived people that think it is okay to pick up and gun and kill?

What needs to happen? The laws around buying and carrying a gun need to be stricter. It is not just me who thinks this. 46% of American citizens also think this. If this happens, the next generations will be able to grow up with little fear, but it starts with us. We can make that change.

**Mabel G**

# Persuasive Speeches

*Believing in School*



Dear friends, imagine this; sitting outside, fresh and exhilarating air on you face, wind blowing through your hair, sunrays peeking out from clouds and keeping you warm. Eating your favourite food and chatting with your friends. That's what spending time outside, on the magnificent field right next to my school during lunch feels like. Now imagine this; distressfully sitting in a cramped, confined room, not being able to go outside or see any of your friends or distant relatives. Starting to lose hope and doing all you can to tackle loneliness and all the misery that you are feeling. Doesn't the first experience seem better? This is why school is extremely essential. We need to go back.

264 million children don't get the opportunity to go to school. Isn't that atrocious? They can't experience all the positive things that others have experienced at school and can't gain the knowledge needed for a satisfactory and promising future. School helps us build confidence, social skills, and self-sufficiency. As Debasish Mridha once said, "Education shows the path to the door of opportunity. It gives confidence and hope to open it." The people who are struggling, the people who have experienced terrible, tragic things, and the people who do not have an elated home. They can all come together and hearten each other creating a sense of community... a second home. Don't you think that they should get the chance to lead a jubilant life? School is the place where everything can change, where exceptional but also unfavourable things can happen, however, it is also the place where you will build relationships and meet respectable people that will be there for you for the rest of your life. School is everything.

Dear friends, furthermore, school teaches you not to suffer in silence. Teachers and your friends are always there to support you or when you need someone to talk to, and to help you become a better and benevolent person. It encourages you to be genuine and courageous. Many don't realise that school also teaches you how to tell right from wrong; it helps you understand how to be an empathetic person and prepares you for the future and the complications that you might face. If a student was late to school, a teacher would tell them off and after a while they would learn to be punctual and organised, however, if a person was late for their job or a job interview, the consequences would be much more immense and could have a major impact on their life as they would not be able to get or keep a job. School teaches you how to walk, so you could run later in life. Working with others and giving presentations at school can undoubtedly increase your determination and communication skills. That can make your life uncomplicated because you don't doubt yourself or overthink, and you can fully focus on being the best version of yourself.

Many people believe that school is all about trying to get the best grade, and being competitive, and doing tons of homework, however, that is not accurate. It is so much more than that. It is a place where you can gain many skills, it's not only about gaining knowledge. We need it because it inspires us and supports us while we discover who we are. We need it because we can meet new, astounding people that can become a part of our family. We need school because it teaches us to learn from our mistakes and do better. Do you still think that school isn't important? Because we know it is.

School isn't perfect but our generation can be the one to make an enormous difference.

Dear friends, we need to fight. We need to fight for school. It is spectacular, delightful and necessary. Right now, 28% of students in the UK don't enjoy going to school and there are a million things that would have to be done to make it perfect, so that everyone adores it, but I know that we can do it. In the future, we should make sure that school is accessible to every child and uneducated adult. Everyone deserves education. There should be more intriguing and extraordinary lessons that allow children to develop their ability to communicate with others adequately, appreciate school and become passionate about what they're doing. There should be less focus on your grades and the mistakes that you have made because everyone should get a second chance as long as they learn from their mistakes and make progress. There should be more focus on things such as bliss, passion and contentment. We need you, to help us make a change.

Thank you.

**Zozia P**

# Persuasive Speeches

*Why we should be more Globalist and a bit less Nationalist*



Where are you from? Anywhere from Europe to Asia, Africa to North America - there are 195 countries in the world and about 6,500 different languages and to a Nationalist, reaching beyond your origin would seem hard, but we as a civilisation have broken down language and cultural barriers to connect and grow - because one thing that we all have in common: humanity, the great connective force - and we cannot afford to sever this connectivity on the fickle premise that you live on one landmass and I live on another - it's important to us and to the future of humanity.

Nationalism can be defined as a pride for your country, a pleasure in its achievements, a passion for its success but if you look deeply you will find that Nationalism is one of the root cause for problems in the past and for today. Let's take an issue today such as Brexit. Pro-Brexiteers campaigned heavily for the return to "the Great Britain" and for the decreasing of immigrants. They wanted their jobs back; they wanted their country back from filthy immigrants who threatened to ruin their culture. They created a situation where people believed that by prohibiting foreigners, they were doing a service. The UK is a country that greatly benefits from and immigration global trade as it is an island, so needs good links with other countries. This fact is always ignored by many nationalists - they believe that my country and its people are better than others and the idea that it's country before individual.

This nationalist idea of trying to be lone island is wrong, and will drive us back into the dark ages. Strongly nationalist views stifle economic growth and trade, when they would say that they want to grow your country. Division does not equal growth.

Another great example of this is America and President Trump, who perhaps is a brilliant example of nationalism. The President's campaign slogan is "Make America Great Again". He intends to do this by preventing certain types of people coming to the country and he even goes as far as placing tariffs on certain countries to prevent their own growth drops out of key institutions such as the Paris Climate Deal. He believes it is reducing his country's greatness and this division he creates is dangerous. It is the reason why most of the main stream media is being called an "enemy of the people" - because they believe we should work together for greatness. Any one against the leader of the country is an enemy, and this sentiment is a similar one to that of Germany under Hitler's leadership. It is a similar sentiment used by dictators.

It's not all just about the economic impact: Nationalism is heavily tribalistic in nature. Think about it, it's my country versus yours. Separating people like their separate species, like we are not all one person in one race of life together. Nationalism is the reason why many people are told to "Go back to their country", "You don't belong here". The world to nationalists is taken a series of divisions, cliques. It's backwards. We've worked through language and cultural differences so much already.

The western world may be the greatest offenders of this ideology. In the past, they went to other countries and took resources, without trying to make trade or helping the people they stole from. They went back, made their countries great and some refuse to give proper help (not just aid may I say) to those they stole from all in the name of keeping their countries great. All in the name of nationalism.

**Oluchi A**



# Persuasive Speeches

*All Lives Matter!*



Surely all lives matter? Black Lives Matter is racist, isn't it? Why do you want to be oppressed so badly? Why do you only care about white cops killing black people, doesn't black on black crime exist?

These exact questions are the reason Black Lives Matter exists. When we say black lives matter, we aren't saying other lives don't matter. We're saying black lives also matter. There is so much controversy around black lives matter, and there shouldn't be, it was a movement created in 2013 to battle injustice, racism and police brutality, and in the wise words of Martin Luther King "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." So why are we being silenced still?

Well, we're being silenced because of "All Lives Matter". If you truly knew the real reason "All Lives Matter" exists, you for sure, wouldn't be saying it. All Lives Matter is a protest and hateful oppressive movement, used to silence Black Lives Matter and black individuals. So why do people use it? Because they're ignorant and don't understand why Black Lives Matter exists. If all lives mattered, then why would we need a black lives matter movement? Exactly, we wouldn't need it, so until Black Lives Matter, All Lives can't Matter.

Another reason Black Lives Matter exists, is because of white fragility. The exact definition of white fragility is 'discomfort and defensiveness on the part of a white person when confronted by information about racial inequality and injustice.' White fragility is a massive problem when it comes to Black Lives Matter or any sort of racial injustice. White fragility needs to be dismantled in order for any kind of conversation about racism to be held. White individuals need to accept that it's an uncomfortable but necessary conversation to be had. We have to meet in the middle and until white individuals can stop being so defensive, we can't.

To further address the ignorant questions at the beginning of the speech, which may I add are actual comments I have seen all over social media, I have some answers. 'Surely all lives matter' well, of course all lives are important, but black lives matter exists, because black lives aren't valued in the same way that white lives are. 'Black lives matter is racist, isn't it.' Black lives matter is not racist, it isn't anti white, despite what ignorant people say, it is simply a movement in which black individuals are fighting for basic human rights. 'Why do you want to be oppressed so badly.' We don't want to be oppressed, but we are. Black individuals have been oppressed for well over 400 years because of the corrupt, white system. As for the last question, black on black crime isn't real. If a white person, killed another white person, that's called murder, it's not white on white crime, so why is it an different in a black person, killed another black person?

Black Lives Matter focuses on battling injustice, and as far as statistics go, there is still a lot more battling to do. There was a survey done in the UK, within the last month, and here were some of the results. When asked if the police have not treated you with respect, 49% of black Britons agreed, compared to 26% of white respondents. In the US, African American individuals are the most likely people to have a lifetime risk of being killed by the police. Per 100,000 people, 100 African American individuals are at risk to being killed by the police. My last statistic, although there are many more, is that black individuals, in Wales and England are 40 times more likely to be stopped and searched.

Black Lives Matter, is extremely important to me, I'm extremely passionate about the movement and if I could be out there protesting, I would. Black Lives Matter is extremely important to me because, what if one of the next victims of this racist brutality was one of my older brothers? My dad? My uncle? I am so fearful that one day, it will effect someone in my family, so it's extremely personal to me, when I see a young black man or woman being killed, when they have a massive family, their own siblings or kids. It's heartbreaking. So it's important to me to stand up with Black Lives Matter.

Remember, Black Lives Matter, now and always, not only will we fight for the justice of those who have died, but also for those who are living, thank you.

**Tabitha T**

# Persuasive Speeches

## Slavery



I am here today to talk about a subject close to all of our hearts: Slavery. Should we take down the statues of slave traders? This question has been on a lot of our minds recently, hasn't it? I think we all know what the answer is but we can come to that a little later on.

I say we cannot forget about history and all the mistakes in the past that have been committed but we can mould our future from the mistakes and immoral deeds that people have committed before our time. We can learn. We can learn to be better people from these immoral deeds. We can learn never to commit these deeds again. So, we can learn from slavery. Never to use slaves or anything like this ever again. We should never have done this in the first place but we cannot and I can't stress this enough we cannot just forget about all the slaves that have suffered at the hands of these slave traders, because that would be even more wrong wouldn't it?.

I am here today to provide an answer to this question: should we take down the statues of slave traders? The Colston statue. This statue should have been taken down. Yes it should have been taken down years ago along with other statues like this one, but please do not throw them in Bristol harbour because then we are forgetting and hiding the truth; we should place them in a museum just like the M Shed where the Colston statue is going. By putting these statues in museums we can share the stories of the many slaves that were affected by the people in these statues, by putting them into museums this ensures that we never forget the slaves that have experienced anguish, pain and suffering as a result of the people in these statues. This will let the public know what happened in the past: so that we will never forget.

Sir Keir Starmer said the way the statue had been pulled down was "completely wrong" but it should have been taken down "A long, long time ago."

We need to remember all those slaves that suffered, died and were tortured at the hands of these people. Bristol's slave traders were responsible for about one-fifth of the total British slave trade during this time, and between 1501 and 1866 over 12 million Africans are estimated to have been exported to the new world, however around 2 million of whom probably died en route. To me, and I don't know about you, but I think that this is too many people to just forget about. That is why we should take down all of these statues and put them into museums so that we never forget these slaves who have experienced anguish as a result of others.

Bristol should be a memorial for those slaves that endured the pain and suffering, but we cannot do this by demolishing every link to slavery in Bristol because, to be honest, you would have to demolish Bristol completely and build a whole new city in its place. However, the statues are one of the major things that needs to go; these are the strongest links to slavery in Bristol and other cities around the world, but we must not destroy them: they are fragments of the past. We should not forget about these fragments because we need to teach children that we cannot have history repeat itself. We cannot and will not let this happen again.

Now I shall tell you a story about one slave. This slave's name was Pero Jones. He was born enslaved in Nevis, he was then bought by John Pinney when he was just 12 in 1765. John Pinney was a wealthy enslaver, plantation owner and sugar merchant. Pero Jones was bought to work on John Pinney's Mountravers plantation in Nevis. Then in 1784 he accompanied the Pinney family to Bristol where they lived in the Georgian house. Pero was Pinney's valet and personal servant and worked for him for 32 years though he was never freed, he was never freed. There is a bridge in Bristol called Pero's bridge; this bridge is a memorial for one of many slaves that lived and died in Bristol. However, it is also a tribute to the many unknown men, women and children who were enslaved by Bristol slave traders.

So, I reiterate like I have already done many times in my speech this is how we should embrace Bristol: as a memorial for all the slaves in history. We cannot do this by forgetting the slaves and covering up the truth. That is why I propose that we take down all the statues of slave traders and of those with strong links to slavery, and put them into museums so that we never forget the slaves that passed through Bristol's harbour.

I shall leave you with this quote by Abraham Lincoln "Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally" We can all do this together united as one. We will not stop until we are heard. We will fight until these statues are taken down and put into museums.

**Anneliese B**

# Persuasive Speeches

## *US Treatment of the African-American community*



### **A speech on how the American law system is corrupt and prejudice towards the treatment of the African-American community**

'I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.' This is the start of the American Policing Oath, taken by people who promise to defend the country and keep it safe for those who live there. This an important oath to take-it shows the responsibility and duty police people have- and also what they promise to take forward and embody these promises in their career. However, nowhere does it say in this oath, that the African-American community pose as a bigger threat and therefore need extra care around them and also extra violence. That oath may have started as glorious and patriotic- but now is weighed down by the heavy blow of prejudice.

We, as a society, like to believe that our world is modern and progressive and a place where everyone can live together in harmony, a Utopia without having to go anywhere. However, the world we live in is far from this fairy-tale place we dream of. Whilst we dream of happiness, equality and rights for all, respect and safety are being moved out the way to make room for the Law System.

Over the last month the hashtag #Ican'tbreathe became one of the most popular and used on many social media sites. This hashtag was a protest to arrest and charge the officers who had caused the death of the 46-year-old man, George Floyd. On the 25th May, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, George Floyd was killed by a white policeman kneeling on his neck for 9 minutes, whilst the 3 others stood around and made no haste to stop what their fellow policeman was doing. In fact, they did nothing at all, to the horror of the bystanders. George Floyd's crime was using a counterfeit \$20 bill to purchase cigarettes. Floyd was led to the squad car but fell to his side, as he did not want to enter the squad car because he was claustrophobic. The policemen who were there saw this as a reason to restrain him. George Floyd died because a policeman saw it as his right to kneel on his neck, pinned to the rough ground, leaving behind his family and his children- including 6-year-old daughter Gianna, who now has to lead life on without her beloved father.

As a society, we cannot simply ignore the common racism that has unfortunately become part of today's world. Many people argued against George Floyd's case, saying that he was a criminal, who'd committed other crimes and he did not deserve the protests that were being held in his memory. However, someone made a post on Instagram comparing George Floyd's to 2 other white men who'd committed a series of murders. George Floyd was restrained on the ground for he was considered dangerous by the policemen, whereas the 2 men were allowed to walk freely. This is a metaphor for how the law allows policemen to treat people- apparently the colour of your skin now defines how you are seen. Slavery was abolished, segregation was abolished, society finally had a glimpse of hope towards equality for all, but an old fashioned and prejudice system keeps on putting our society back years.

As a society, we have potential to change the world we live in today. The response to George Floyd's death was glorious- as a society we showed how hard we would be prepared to work to change the world we live in. However, there still are negative responses from every protest, from every memorial. Look at the comments of a #BlackLivesMatter post and, admit the positive reactions and support, you'll find the people who scream 'All lives matter!' and refuse to read the room and see how important it is. Perhaps all lives did matter when we were cavemen, when racism wasn't an ideology because we were all equal then. But times have changed.

It is a horrible but real fact that George Floyd was not the first. 12 days before George Floyd was killed, Breonna Taylor was shot fatally by 3 policemen who were conducting a No-knock-drug-search at the flat she shared with her partner, on the belief that they were harbouring drugs. The cops were in plain clothes, so when they forced their way into the apartment, the couple believed that they were being attacked by criminals. Her partner, who was a licensed gun carrier, fired a shot as he believed that he was under attack. Breonna Taylor's life was lost because of the policemen's total disregard for human life, her family devastated at the loss of their daughter, and the punishment for the policeman who killed her was being fired from his job. One innocent life lost, another who caused the loss, without payment. How is this an equal society.

# Persuasive Speeches

## *US Treatment of the African-American community*



The idea that life imitates art has become disturbingly real over these last few months, with 2 books specifically coming to mind. The book 'The Hate U Give', by Angie Thomas, tells the story of a boy who is shot by a white police officer because the officer assumed that he was reaching for a gun, when in reality, he was reaching for a hairbrush. This work of fiction could almost be considered a non-fiction book- with the amount of people who have been unjustly murdered in this way. These killings could be so easy to stop, if the law took away the privileges that white policemen have- the idea that they were just doing their job, or that they were under threat.

As a society, we have great potential to change the world that we live in today. The reason why these types of hate crimes and killings are happening is because the previous ways of living are still influencing the laws that we live by. We, as humans, love to take a trip down memory lane and wish to go back to a happier rose-tinted time where we didn't have to deal with such harsh problems and realities. Another key example of life imitating art is the court case in 'To Kill a Mocking Bird'. The lawyer goes against the judgement of the racist village and defends a man accused of raping a white woman. However, the man accused is murdered by the family before the lawyer can re-attempt to convince the jury. How is this not a metaphor for the life we lead today, before justice can be served, murder has taken first place.

The reality of prosecutions made on racial judgement is a reflection of the ominous racial prejudice that stands in the way of equality. On average, it is more likely for a black person to be given a longer charge for possession of drugs than a white person. In the times of segregation, the black community were being set to prison on long sentences for very minor crimes. It seems it has changed from the law seeing crime, to the law seeing race. Surely this shouldn't be happening. Surely, for all the fighting, protesting and bravery that has been shown, there should be change. Think back to the Little Rock Nine, who risked their lives to get into school, to receive the education that they deserved. Think of Martin Luther King, who protested and lead millions to equal rights. Their efforts, their achievements deserve to have everlasting effect.

We have the potential to change and re-shape the world that we live in today. We will not settle until there is equality for all and until the law and police see people by the crimes they commit, rather than the colour of their skin. We can achieve the world we want, but we must keep on fighting for it. No more cold-blooded killings, no more prejudice, no more people pleading that they can't breathe. This world is close. So close. But we must fight for it.

**Rachel B**