

Speech topics not to do in a speech class

Giving a speech in a class is a very stressful and emotional act and the topic you choose will have a positive or negative effect. Many people will advise you to choose a topic you like and feel passionate about. This can be a huge mistake. That passion for the subject, in many instances, multiplies the stress and emotions of giving a speech. The result is a speech that may lack solid support (your passion is not support) and is delivered poorly. My suggestion is to choose a topic you like, but not love. In other words, choose something interesting to you but one you are not emotionally invested in.

Controversial topics are another bad idea in a basic speech class. The reason these topics tend to be controversial is because they lack clear, irrefutable evidence for one side or the other or the evidence has been misrepresented by one group or another in some way. (Importantly, don't forget you are being graded on your use of evidence). In addition, most of your audience has probably made up their mind and taking a position will alienate roughly half of them before you even begin. Below are some topics I have found to be poor choices in the basic speech classroom and you should steer away from. Remember, this class is about becoming competent at giving a speech. Period. If you feel you must do one of these topics, I would strongly suggest that you take an advanced public speaking course or write about them in an English class. This is not the appropriate class for them. In addition, if your topic is sensationalized by cable news entertainers like those found on Fox News or MSNBC, you should probably avoid it.

Abortion	Affirmative Action	Anti-Semitism
Arab-Israeli Conflict	Beginning of Life Issues	Church State Issues
Climate Change Policy	Creationism vs. Evolution	Death Penalty
Gay Marriage	Gay Rights	Global Warming
Gun Control	Health Care Policy	Immigration
Marriage and Divorce	Marijuana	Religious Rights

Or anything else that is overly controversial