

Article: "Words to Win By" • Issue: October 13, 2008

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# May I Have Your Attention, Please?

**Directions:** In this activity, you will learn the basic steps to writing a good speech. Follow the prompts below to choose a topic and type of speech. Then you will write an introduction.

## Picking a Topic

Consider your audience. In this activity, your audience will be your classmates. To help determine a good speech topic, ask yourself the following questions:

- What do I know a lot about?
- What would I like to know more about?
- What do I talk about with my friends?
- What hobbies do I have?

Brainstorm some ideas here: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Choose one of your ideas above for a speech topic. Write it here: \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Types of Speeches

Now that you have chosen a topic, decide what type of speech you want to give. In "Words to Win By," you read two different types of speeches. John McCain's speech was **informative**—it provided information like facts, figures, history, etc. Barack Obama's speech was **persuasive**—it presented facts to convince people of something or to change people's minds. There is also a third type of speech called **demonstrative**, which tells others how to do something.

Deciding which type of speech you want to give is as important as the topic you present. For instance, say the topic you chose was "soccer." If you choose to make an informative speech, you could inform your audience about the history of soccer. If you want to give a demonstrative speech, you could teach your audience how to dribble a soccer ball. If you want to make a persuasive speech, you could convince your audience that soccer is the greatest sport.

Choose your type of speech (informative, persuasive, or demonstrative). Write it here: \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize your speech in one sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

