

Lesson Plan

Speaking for Change

Book: *Malala Yousafzai: Education Activist*

Series: Important Women

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice writing and giving persuasive speeches on issues that are important to them.

Supplies

- *Malala Yousafzai: Education Activist* book
- Computer access for students
- Pencils and paper

Before the Activity

Read through the *Malala Yousafzai: Education Activist* book as a class.

Activity

In 2013, Malala Yousafzai spoke before the United Nations. She talked about girls' education. She explained why the issue is important to her personally and why it is important to the world. She wanted to convince her listeners to care about girls' education. Following in Yousafzai's footsteps, students will write speeches about issues that are important to them.

First, students should choose a topic. Then, students should write a five-paragraph speech on their topic. In their speeches, students should explain why the issue matters to them, sharing personal experiences as appropriate. Students should also explain why the issue matters or should matter to other people. In developing their speeches, students may use computers to research online for evidence that supports their position. Remind students that they are writing to persuade listeners to care about their topic.

When students have finished writing, divide the class into groups of three. In their groups, students will practice giving their speeches one at a time. Remind students to speak clearly and at a slow pace so that listeners can understand them. The two students who are listening should pay attention to the speaker's arguments and delivery. Afterward, they should give the speaker feedback on whether the speech was clear, easy to follow, and persuasive. After everyone has had the chance to speak, come back together as a large group. If there is time, invite a few students to come forward and read their speeches to the whole group.

Evaluation

Collect the speeches at the end of class. Give students up to 12 points:

- 3 points for clearly stating the topic
- 3 points for explaining why the topic matters to them
- 3 points for explaining why the topic should matter to other people
- 3 points for good organization and logical flow

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 4 (W 4.1, 4.8), and speaking and listening standards, grade 4 (SL 4.4), and the National Council for the Social Studies standard 10.