

PEN – Progressive Economic Narrative

Writing a Short Speech by an Elected Representative

This worksheet is a guide to writing a short speech on an issue, within the frame of An America that Works for All of Us. Use this outline and fill in the blanks and in a short time you'll have a powerful speech!

“Good [morning/afternoon/evening]. I’m _____. It’s great to be here with you today. And it’s a privilege to represent you in the [legislative body]. Today I want to talk to you about how together we build an America and a [state] that works for all of us, not just *the wealthy few and the well connected.*”

and/or another ‘villain’ that contrasts with “all of us.”

“As I talk with families throughout [geographic area you represent], I meet so many working and middle class families who are getting squeezed/crushed [your choice].”

Give examples of what that means for people’s lives, ones most moving for your district and related to the issues you are championing. Be sure that in choosing those, you relate to the specific audience you are addressing.

e.g. I talked with a Mom in [town] who can’t take afford to take a day off when her 7 year old daughter is sick.

But this is no accident. *Identify the ‘villain’ that is responsible and what they do that is bad.*

e.g. Big corporations don’t provide paid sick days for their workers.

And you know what. They get away with it by using campaign donations and lobbyists to manipulate the rules to benefit them – at the expense of working and middle-class families. .

It doesn’t have to be this way. Together we can create an America and [state] that works for all of us, not just the wealthy few. That’s why we must work together to *[amplify your quest and what value it will achieve.]*

e.g. Provide great neighborhood public schools where every child has the opportunity to learn.

Examples of values are: opportunity; security; freedom; strong communities.

What I always remember is that working people and the middle class are the engines of our economy. When we have good jobs so that we can care for and support our families. When we can educate our children, shop in our neighborhoods. When we can afford health care and retire in security, we drive our economy forward. That's what makes our communities in [state/geographic region] thrive.

"We'll build a strong middle class in [state/city] by decisions we make together. That's why I'm working in [state capital/legislative body] to rewrite the rules to [restate your quest].

e.g. create a better world for our children

we need to [Talk about your top priority issues, which address the problems you've identified. Be sure that every solution is connected to a value-based goal.]

e.g. guarantee paid sick days so working people can care for their themselves and their loved ones and still meet the basics for their families.

When we do that, it's important that we take down the barriers – [name barriers that cause racial disparities for this issue]

e.g. hiring discrimination, a biased criminal justice system

that block equal opportunity for Blacks and Latinos.

Of course I won't be able to do this alone. I need you. The big question we face in [state capital/legislative body] is who our government works for? The wealthy and powerful or working families in the middle class? I need you to join me in pushing my fellow representatives in [state capital/legislative body] to stand up for [state's] working and middle-class families.

Let me ask you something. When you said the pledge of allegiance in school was it for liberty and justice for the few, for the super-rich? Or for all?

I know we can do this together. This is what America is about. With your help, we can build and America, a [state] that works for all of us.

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