
Persuasive Commentary Script

Podcasts are a way to reach a broad audience and make an argument succinctly. You will have the opportunity to practice your argumentative skills through a [persuasive commentary](#) incorporating a claim supported by evidence that is also deeply personal and reflective. The script will showcase your approach to a wider audience and may impact how teachers approach and teach about enslavement.

Instructions: Use the space below to write your script. Refer to the provided examples if you need help. Remember, your script should be **350 to 400 words**.

Your script will be read aloud, so your audience will be listening. When you're citing your sources, you will want to name the source of information (like "The New York Times" or "The Associated Press"). You DON'T need to include the title of the article or the individual author's name (unless there's a very specific reason to do so).

Prompt

Main Question: How should we teach the history of enslavement?

Consider the following Supporting Questions:

- How does teaching and learning about African American history change if you begin with cultural ancestors in the African continent vs. the Middle Passage?
- How does the teaching and learning about slavery change if you focus on the institution of slavery vs. the fight of the enslaved for freedom?
- Why do we try to avoid the violent parts of our country's history? What is the best way to teach and acknowledge those violent parts?

Kelepi V.

Lede/Intro (hook) (5-7 sentences)

Think about how you want to catch your listener's attention. What's going to make someone stop what they are doing and listen?

Enslavement might've ended many years ago but it doesn't mean that it doesn't haunt us. People might choose not to acknowledge it or simply to ignore it even existed. A time period like enslavement that went on for years isn't really forgotten. The kidnapping, the separation, and the abuse won't be forgotten. Many Africans suffered throughout the years because of enslavement and only hoped for their freedom that hopefully would come. Learning about enslavement can be difficult for children who couldn't imagine a thing like that. It's one of the most difficult topics to talk about in schools.

Scene (personal experience or memory)(10-15 sentences)

Tell a story, maybe of how you first learned about enslavement. Open your document "Learning about Enslavement" and share your story about one of the prompts.

At some point people learn about the enslavement of Black people in America. Learning about it in certain grades can be difficult. But I believe that it should be taught from 6th to 8th grade. In middle school students are evolving and maturing which is a good time for them to learn about enslavement. I learned about enslavement at some point in middle school and one thing that was clear was that the Europeans only enslaved Africans just for the color of their skin. I learned that they were not treated like people, more like non-humans. Read and saw videos about how they were moved like shipment, how they were abused, and how they lived and worked under terrible conditions. Later on I will learn more about how they got to america. They would kidnap africans and put them on ships that came to be known as slave ships, they would put as many of them into the ships until there was no more space. Being so close to other people transmitted disease faster and some would pass away and be thrown into the ocean. The caribbean was the destination of the slave ships wich I learned that thats were they would sell Africans into enslavement. There are some parts of certain historic events that should be taught later on.

Argument (Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning) (10-15 sentences)

- a. Start by choosing either the Main Question or one of the Supporting Questions above and copying and pasting it here.
- b. How would you answer that question?
- c. Evidence: What documents did we read that can help you explain or answer that question? For example, the readings: Olaudah Equiano, Language of Enslavement, or the article we read, The Search for a Meaningful Clue. Or any of the many documents we read from Week 7 to Week 11.
- d. Reasoning: What does this evidence show or prove? "This shows that..."

How should we teach the history of enslavement?

The learning education about enslavement should be taught with honesty and with no mental stress. In document B in Learning and teaching about enslavement a quote says "...A dishonest education is disorienting and destructive to a student's understanding of the real world." in paragraph 5. This quote tells us what a dishonest education can do to a person. Not learning the correct information can alter how a person sees the world as they were taught. In document C it talks about another problem with the learning of enslavement. A quote from this document says "Every level of education has been affected by the presence of racial trauma". This quote tells us how children are experiencing racial trauma in an environment that is supposed to protect them from harm. The way that some teachers are teaching about enslavement especially with Black children can cause confusion and experiences that they don't know how to handle. The education of children is important, their education is the future of the world. If their education can't be taught right then how would the world evolve if all they know are lies and confusion with the topic.

Conclusion/Call to Action (7-9 sentences)

The Big Idea or takeaway: What do you want your readings to be able to take away by listening to your podcast episode?

The education of enslavement has to be taught as real as it once was. Learning from the right information can have a better understanding of how the past really was and how we can improve. An honest education instead of a sugar coated one is how education should be taught. If we all learn the real history of enslavement from a certain age then we won't have confusion or understanding on how we used to treat one another. If we can also have an honest education we can also have school not create racial trauma to students by making them live as if enslaving still existed. Instead we should make the activity safe for students to learn not to make them live experiences that can create trauma. The learning of any topic should be safe and honest for the best learning experience.

Jasmin G

Lede/Intro (hook) (5-7 sentences)

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The U.S White-Washed History should not be Taught.

The U.S History can be pretty Racist and Brutal, but it still should be taught in the way history went. And I get how teachers don't want to scare their students but even if it's scary, history should be taught just like how it all went. People have the right to know what has happened and not be taught some sugar-coated story. People white-wash history because of many possible reasons, but mainly because they want to hide what had truly happened and how it began. History has an impact on many people's lives and messing with it can cause confusions and an overall mess. The U.S has a lot of cruel and graphic history but I believe that it should still be taught, of course at an older age but nonetheless, teaching students a story that wasn't entirely true and later leaching them another version of that same story can cause not just students- but many people to be confused about which story was true or not.

According to an New York Times Article, black people's enslavement past has been changed in many different ways so we have very limited Primary and Secondary sources to go off of. This shows us how we can't just go and find which story is true and which one isn't. History is very long and because we weren't experiencing what history has been like, we wouldn't know how or which piece of evidence was accurate or not. This is a challenge Historians have to regard, and again, with limited sources it's a real challenge keeping people's theories and narratives straight so a small way we can lend a hand to those in the line of History and at the very least, help prevent white-washed history from being taught and learned.

How can we start?

A Question that you may have been speculating, "How *can* we prevent the wrong history from being taught?" Well we could use Social Media as an advantage, and display how others could help educate other people as well. Another concept would

be to inform people you already know how history had been White-Washed and Coated as an inaccurate way and by doing this you're helping the people that you know, how you are making a difference. And one final example on how you can help the wrong history from being thought would be to do your own research, finding *Actual* reliable resources and using honest secondary sources to help you resolve what is true and to later on, correct others who you see are changing history.

History has been white-washed A LOT, so much so that the real truth may sound more... Dark. Sugar coated or white-washed history isn't something to mess around with. The Takeaway from this script is to be cautious when it comes to history, about what you're taught and about what you hear. Like you may recall from the very beginning of this script, there's so much history in this world that it would be utterly impossible to fit it all in one textbook. The U.S history is extremely long and we don't know what happened and what things in the far past were like but even the smallest piece of evidence can help you understand a bit more about history. When doing research, you should use reliable sources and use any reliable articles you trust because if you just find the first thing you see when you search something up, then it's most likely that it's inaccurate. But I sincerely hope you gained something from this and that you help educate many other people from right to wrong.

Evette F

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