

## Year 11 English work for website – week 8.

### Speech Writing

There has been a lot in the news recently about the NHS and key workers.

**Challenge:** What is the NHS and why is it important to so many people?

**Extra Challenge:** Why have people been clapping NHS workers once a week?

**Mega Challenge:** Some people argue that the NHS should be given more money to spend on providing healthcare. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your perspectives.



Thank you

### The NHS is the National Health Service



Everyone who works in the UK pays National Insurance contributions from the money they earn from their jobs.

National Insurance helps to pay for the NHS, so that anyone can see a doctor or get an appointment for medical treatment without paying privately or separately.

In many countries they do not have a similar service or what is called 'universal healthcare'. Instead, each person pays for their own healthcare with their own money.

When workers pay their National Insurance, they are paying to not only provide for their own healthcare but the healthcare of all other people in the UK.

Supporters of the NHS say the idea of 'everyone paying in so everyone can get something out of it' means it is fair.

Opponents of the NHS say individual people should not be responsible for the healthcare of others and only themselves, or that services offered this way should be more basic than privately-funded options. This is called 'tiered healthcare'.

In the UK people can still pay for private healthcare separately, but they have to pay National Insurance as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ls77cy08rsY>

On the next page is an example of a persuasive speech about the NHS.

I would like you to read it carefully (and all the useful notes that go with it!)

Have a go at writing your own persuasive speech about a topic you feel strongly about.

Here are some ideas:

### Today, you are going to write your own speech.

- 1) Choose the topic of your speech. What do you want to change?
- 2) Who are you going to saying your speech to? Who will be your audience?

Plan out your speech:

**Introduction:** Sum up everything you will talk about. Write a list of topics.

**Paragraph 1:** Topic 1

**Paragraph 2:** Topic 2

**Paragraph 3:** Topic 3

**Paragraph 4:** Topic 4

**Paragraph 5:** Topic 5

**Conclusion:** Sum up everything you will talk about.

#### Need some ideas?

- A speech from the FA persuading FIFA that the World Cup should be hosted in the UK.
- A speech from an animal rights campaigner to persuade fashion designers to be more aware of animal rights.
- A speech from a top computer game designer to persuade Nintendo and Sony to work more closely together on projects to benefit gamers.

#### Not sure how to start?

Ladies and gentlemen,  
today we meet because...  
We live in a world now  
where... This has to  
change. This has to stop.  
Today, we...

Now, you may ask me  
how we... Well, we will...  
This can be done by...

Moreover, we...

As well as this, we...

To conclude, let me say  
that... Thank you.

Good luck! I look forward to reading your speech!

What happens when you break your leg when playing football?

You phone for an ambulance and you get taken to a hospital, where you receive treatment in order to repair your damaged bones. What happens when you fall incredibly ill? You go to a doctor or to hospital and they use their knowledge, experience, and skills to find a way to treat you and help you recover. However, who pays for all these services?

The speech opens with rhetorical questions, direct address and specific examples to show the audience how the NHS affects them in different ways. This helps engage the audience with the speaker's views.

Well, you may be surprised to know that every person in the UK provides National Insurance contributions that fund these services, known as the NHS. Before the NHS existed, each person in the UK would have to pay for their own healthcare or hope that charity would provide for them when they were ill. Nowadays, anyone can walk into a doctor's surgery or hospital and get treatment for free, thanks to the NHS system.

The speaker draws a comparison between what the world was like BEFORE the NHS existed and what the world is like NOW it does exist to help the audience see how the NHS is important to them. This helps set up the speaker to persuade the audience why they should see the NHS important to them as well.

Yet, as the population grows and people live longer and longer thanks to improved healthcare services, more and more money is spent on the NHS to keep it operating. Even though the institution is awfully expensive, however, it is still much cheaper than other healthcare systems around the world. The per capita healthcare spending of the NHS in 2017 was £2,989 per person, in comparison to other major nations such as France (£3,737), Germany (£4,432) and the United States (£7,736). The Institute for Fiscal Studies says that NHS spending will need to increase by 4% each year to improve healthcare services.

The speaker includes a number of facts and statistics to help support their ideas and persuade the audience that their ideas on increasing funding to the NHS are correct.

During the pandemic of 2020, NHS provisions were put under immense strain. Yet, despite the weekly clapping events and words of praise from every politician in the country, no one has committed to significantly increasing NHS spending. Even though doctors, nurses and other key workers have risked their lives and pushed themselves again and again to protect us during the crisis, no one is saying we will be giving more money to the NHS to improve its services and reward these workers for their efforts. It is time for this to change.

In this part of the speech, the speaker uses a recent example of how the NHS has impacted on society and to persuade the audience that changes to funding need to happen. The speaker repeats the phrase 'no one' to emphasise to the audience that change has not been committed to despite everyone recognising the efforts of the NHS. Additionally, they use a short sentence at the end of the paragraph to reinforce their view to the audience.

Each of you has a voice; we live in a democracy and we are all entitled to be heard. If you think the NHS deserves better funding then write to your MP, sign a petition, campaign in person and online – get out there and make a difference. After all, the future of the NHS is never guaranteed and if we do not speak up for it today it might not be there for you tomorrow. It is time for change.

Just like the start of the speech, the speaker uses direct address and pronouns to speak directly to the audience and to make them feel that these ideas are impacting on them as individuals. The speaker uses emotive language to encourage the audience to do something to create change. Finally, the short sentence from the previous paragraph is repeated for further and final emphasis at the end of the speech.

