

## Project: Speech: The Human Conscience

Create a speech where you defend or refute Darwin's statement: **“Of all the differences between man and the lower animal, man's sense of moral conscience is by far the most important.”** (So, do you think *The human conscience is the most distinct factor that separates man from beast?*)

Include an analysis of moral choices or conflicts by two characters in this unit and one example of the same from history or personal experience to support your position.

Put this argument into the form of a persuasive speech that you will record for peer critique.

### Speech: The Human Conscience

This unit, *The Individual and Society*, has dealt with issues of morality and the human conscience.

Some people argue that morality is a black-and-white issue; that is, every behavior can be clearly classified as right or wrong.

Others argue that morality is a gray area. For example, if one were to categorize stealing in a black-and-white world, he or she could say it was wrong—no matter what. However, someone who views morality as a gray area might say stealing food when a person has no money and no other means to put food on the table is a necessity that cannot be categorized as morally wrong.

### What is a persuasive speech?

A persuasive speech is basically an essay that is delivered orally to the audience instead of being read by the audience. Like the word “persuasive” implies, in this type of speech you are trying to convince your audience that you have the best view of the topic and you use solid examples to back your opinion. **In a persuasive speech, you are the salesperson and you are selling the audience your thoughts. You have to**

**get the audience to buy in. Entice them. Demonstrate to them that no one else is going to sway them any other way because you have the best argument.**

Pre-Writing Activities:

*The human conscience is the most distinct factor that separates man from beast?*

Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Examples from literature:

What are examples from your readings in this class that show the moral choices some characters made?

What happened to those characters as a result of these choices?

Examples from television, movies, books and/or your life:

What are examples from your experience that show the moral choices some characters/you made?

What happened to those characters/you as a result of these choices?

### Sample Outline:

Introduction: Introduce the topic of a moral conscience. What is it? How does it separate us from animals?

Thesis: Either agree or disagree with the statement from Darwin ("Of all the differences between man and the lower animal, man's sense of moral conscience is by far the most important.")

### Body Paragraphs:

In the body paragraphs you will group your examples of how humans use their moral conscience to guide them through life...

You might do one body paragraph that looks at examples of humans making positive decisions and one body paragraphs that looks at examples of negative decisions.

You could do a body paragraph that explores examples from literature, one paragraph with examples from tv/movies and one paragraph with examples from your life.

### Conclusion:

Explain what you've learned from this topic that you can apply to your life.