



Greta Thunberg speech analysis – student handout

Introduction

In this activity, you will analyze Greta Thunberg's speech at the UN Climate Action Summit. You will:

- Identify the contents and main arguments of her speech
- Evaluate her use of public speaking and techniques
- Play the role of a Devil's advocate by critiquing the speech
- Defend the speech against criticism with strong counterarguments

Step 1: Identify the speech's content

Watch Greta Thunberg's speech carefully and answer:

- What is her main argument?
- What emotion does she use to connect with the audience?
- What does she want to achieve with this speech?

Step 2: Identifying public speaking techniques

Greta Thunberg is known for her strong public speaking style. What techniques did she use effectively?

- Tone of voice?
- Body language?
- Repetition?
- Eye contact?

Step 3: Identifying strengths – Yellow hat activity

Before playing the Devils's advocate, let's focus on why Greta's speech is effective.

Your task: In your group, identify the strongest aspects of her speech.

- What are the most persuasive parts of her argument?
- Why does her emotional appeal work?
- How does her tone, language or body language make the speech powerful?



Step 4: Playing Devil's advocate – criticizing the speech

If you were a critic of Greta's speech, what would you say?

- Does she offer any real solutions, or just criticize?
- Is her tone too aggressive to convince politicians?
- Is she overgeneralizing saying all leaders are bad?

Step 5: Defending Greta's speech – counterarguments

Now, defend Greta's speech against the criticism.

- Why doesn't she need to give solutions?
- Is her anger justified?
- What would happen if she were softer and less aggressive?