Speech
Grades 5-8 Skills List

The writer of a competent speech demonstrates most or all of the following skills:

PURPOSE/AUDIENCE
- Shows an understanding of the audience's perspective
- Writes from the perspective of an informed speaker to a less-informed listener
- Focuses on the purpose of the speech (e.g., to entertain, to persuade, to inform, to demonstrate)
- Anticipates audience's reactions, questions, lack of understanding (e.g., explains or defines technical terminology)
- Uses appropriate tone for the event, audience, and purpose
- Makes it clear what the listener should know, do, and/or believe as a result of hearing the speech

IDEA DEVELOPMENT/SUPPORT
- Demonstrates depth of idea development with specific, sufficient details/support
- Uses appropriate strategies to develop ideas (e.g., statistics, stories, personal reflections, visual aids, addressing of opposing viewpoints)
- Uses information from a variety of sources as necessary
- Clarifies and interprets ideas
- Uses persuasive technique(s) (e.g., testimonial, bandwagon, emotional/logical/ethical appeal)
- Provides accurate and sufficient support to achieve the intended purpose of the speech

ORGANIZATION
- Writes an engaging lead to get the audience's attention
- Includes a purpose statement (clearly stated or subtle)
- Places ideas in a meaningful order
- Uses transitions and transitional elements between ideas to guide listeners
- Maintains coherence and unity
- Concludes speech effectively (e.g., review of points, call to action, appeal to audience, challenge)
- Organizes logically through the use of visual aids (e.g., graphic organizer, Power Point presentation, text features) to support purpose as appropriate

SENTENCES
- Communicates through complete sentences
- Varies structure of sentences without becoming overly complex

LANGUAGE

- Demonstrates control of grammar and usage
- Demonstrates acceptable word choice for audience and purpose

CORRECTNESS

- Cites references and documents sources effectively
- Demonstrates control of spelling and punctuation
- Demonstrates control of capitalization and abbreviation

It is important to keep in mind that speeches are meant to be heard by an intended audience. During the delivery of a speech, other skills such as facial expressions, eye contact, gestures, speed of speaking and volume of voice are necessary for a successful delivery.

As students move from grade to grade, they demonstrate growth in the control and complexity with which they use these skills.

The Kentucky Marker Papers Committee did not find a sample to fit the category

Fourth-grade Speech

Submissions may still be sent to

Lee Ann Hager
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The Kentucky Marker Papers Committee did not find a sample to fit the category

Fifth-grade Speech

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The Kentucky Marker Papers Committee did not find a sample to fit the category

Sixth-grade Speech

Submissions may still be sent to

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SUPPORTING ADULT STEM CELL RESEARCH

Shut your eyes and imagine this. In a dark room a middle-aged man sits quietly in his wheelchair while his wife struggles to lift him from the chair to the bathtub. Although he's not able to feel the temperature of the water, he still recalls the time before his accident of how relaxing it felt after a long, hot shower when he was able to stand on his own two feet. Embarrassed and solely dependent on others for all aspects of care, the man begins to remember the day that his life was completely altered.

It all started on a hot summer day while horseback riding. Christopher Reeves, better known as Superman, fell from his horse and injured his spinal cord leaving him paralyzed from the neck down. Now open your eyes.

Christopher Reeves is only one of the many people suffering from spinal cord injuries who has died unnecessarily because of the lack of stem cell research. This type of injury could happen to anyone at anytime even if you are Superman. With stem cell research, you could possibly be cured from paralysis and be able to live a better and longer life. Today I would like to encourage each and every one of you to contact your state representatives and express your desire for federally funded stem cell research in an effort to end the unnecessary suffering and death of thousands of spinal cord injury patients and to prevent other deadly diseases with the use of stem cells.

Of course, you probably want to know why I am speaking to you today about stem cell research and how I would have any knowledge about this topic. Most of the things I know about stem cells are from my science class this year and the rest come from talking with my parents who regularly watch the Discovery channel which covers stem cell research in great detail. I was very disappointed to hear that in June 2006 President Bush vetoed a bill that stopped stem cell research from being federally funded.

Stem cells are cells that can become a totally new type of cell. For instance, a stem cell can be placed by a heart in a container and it will take on the characteristics of the heart. You also can use them to make other organs too, including lungs, livers, and kidneys.

First of all, stem cell research has been shown to treat many deadly diseases such as Alzheimers, Parkinsons, and cancer. For those of you who currently have or know someone who has any of these conditions, imagine how wonderful life would be if you or a close family member were to be cured just by the study of stem cells. I lost my grandmother to Alzheimers and my grandfather to Parkinsons, and my uncle is now suffering from lymphoma, a form of cancer throughout the body. Although it is too late for my grandparents, my uncle still has a fighting chance to be cured through the development made by stem cell research.

Additionally, stem cell research may drastically reduce wait time on organ donations because they can create new organs, thereby increasing the chance of survival of the patients in need of an organ. Many people, including children, like you and me, die unnecessarily while waiting for an organ donation; there is such a long waiting list. Imagine if the wait time was drastically reduced and organs were made more readily available due to stem cell research. Think about how many lives could be saved. If you needed an organ in order to stay alive, would you choose to wait in line, or would you choose the alternative, stem cells?

It's also important for you to know that with advanced stem cell research, the cost of healthcare could be cheaper. Some insurances limit how many donations a person can have. For example, with most organ transplants, there is a high risk of the body rejecting the new organ and most people have to purchase very expensive medications to prevent the rejection. Most of these medications have to be taken for the rest of that person's life. With the use of stem cells, this costly treatment could be reduced because the likelihood of rejection would be minimal. Everyone would benefit from this.

Unfortunately, a lot of you may feel that stem cell research is a bad thing because most discussions about this topic relate it to the use of

embryos. However, I am here to tell you that stem cell research can be carried out with the use of adult bone marrow instead of using embryos. For example, at my school a teacher's husband donated some of his bone marrow to save the life of a child. So, as you can see, the use of embryos is not the only option. The only problem is that stem cell research cannot occur without federal money.

As my teacher pointed out, the people of the state of California voted for a constitutional amendment which was approved and allowed three hundred million dollars annually to promote stem cell research for a period of ten years. Like the people of California, most of us should realize how important the research is. Without stem cells people are dying unnecessarily because they could be cured with stem cells. The only way to prevent this is for the government to pay for it.

In conclusion, you may think that nothing bad could happen to you, but the truth is stem cell research is important for all of us because we could be that individual suffering from a deadly disease or spinal cord injury, just waiting for a miracle cure. A cure which stem cells may someday offer. Hopefully, you now understand the importance of stem cell research. I urge you to contact your state representatives to support federally funded stem cell research. If we all lend our support to federally funded stem cell

research, then we could all be a part of saving lives like "Superman." Together, we can make a difference in the lives of many with federally funded stem cell research.

title reflects / essence of speech

- appropriate tone employed throughout the piece

SUPPORTING ADULT STEM CELL RESEARCH

engaging lead

Shut your eyes and imagine this. In a dark room a middle-aged man sits quietly in his wheelchair while his wife struggles to lift him from the chair to the bathtub. Although he's not able to feel the temperature of the water, he still recalls the time before his accident of how relaxing it felt after a long, hot shower when he was able to stand on his own two feet.

demonstrates reflective thinking

specific language

appropriate language

appropriate tone for audience

Embarrassed and solely dependent on others for all aspects of care, the man begins to remember the day that his life was completely altered.

good word choice

It all started on a hot summer day while horseback riding. Christopher Reeves, better known as Superman, fell from his horse and injured his spinal cord leaving him paralyzed from the neck down. Now open your eyes.

audience awareness

sentence variety

Use of persuasive technique called "plain folks" appeal helps to connect audience throughout the piece

Christopher Reeves is only one of the many people suffering from spinal cord injuries who has died unnecessarily because of the lack of stem cell research. This type of injury could happen to anyone at anytime even if you are Superman. With stem cell research, you could possibly be cured from paralysis and be able to live a better and longer life. Today I would like to encourage each and every one of you to contact your state representatives and express your desire for federally funded stem cell research in an effort to end the unnecessary suffering and death of thousands of spinal cord injury patients and to prevent other deadly diseases with the use of stem cells.

direct address to audience, purpose statement

Consistant use of verb tense

effective sentence structure

transition

establishes content/purposes

Of course, you probably want to know why I am speaking to you today about stem cell research and how I would have any knowledge about this topic. Most of the things I know about stem cells are from my science class this year and the rest come from talking with my parents who regularly watch the Discovery channel which covers stem cell research in great detail.

establishes credibility and identifies sources

attemps internal documentation

I was very disappointed to hear that in June 2006 President Bush vetoed a bill that stopped stem cell research from being federally funded.

anticipates audience's needs by defining technical terminology

Stem cells are cells that can become a totally new type of cell. For instance, a stem cell can be placed by a heart in a container and it will take on the characteristics of the heart. You also can use them to make other organs too, including lungs, livers, and kidneys.

clarifies ideas and anticipates audiences needs

transition

First of all, stem cell research has been shown to treat many deadly diseases such as Alzheimers, Parkinsons, and cancer. For those of you who currently have or know someone who has any of these conditions, imagine how wonderful life would be if you or a close family member were to be cured just by the study of stem cells. I lost my grandmother to Alzheimers and my grandfather to Parkinsons, and my uncle is now suffering from lymphoma, a form of cancer throughout the body. Although it is too late for my grandparents, my uncle still has a fighting chance to be cured through the development made by stem cell research.

applies persuasive techniques of emotional appeal here and supports with personal examples to develop idea

transition

transition

Additionally, stem cell research may drastically reduce wait time on organ donations because they can create new organs, thereby increasing the chance of survival of the patients in need of an organ. Many people, including children, like you and me, die unnecessarily while waiting for an organ donation; there is such a long waiting list. Imagine if the wait time was drastically reduced and organs were made more readily available due to stem cell research. Think about how many lives could be saved. If you needed an organ in order to stay alive, would you choose to wait in line, or would you choose the alternative, stem cells?

employs persuasive strategies

maintains audience awareness

draws audience back into purpose

It's also important for you to know that with advanced stem cell research, the cost of healthcare could be cheaper. Some insurances limit how many donations a person can have. For example, with most organ transplants, there is a high risk of the body rejecting the new organ and most people have to purchase very expensive medications to prevent the rejection. Most of these medications have to be taken for the rest of that person's life. With the use of stem cells, this costly treatment could be reduced because the likelihood of rejection would be minimal. Everyone would benefit from this.

anticipates audiences' action

bandwagon technique

Unfortunately, a lot of you may feel that stem cell research is a bad thing because most discussions about this topic relate it to the use of

rebuttal with solution

restablishes purpose

embryos. However, I am here to tell you that stem cell research can be carried out with the use of adult bone marrow instead of using embryos. For example, at my school a teacher's husband donated some of his bone marrow to save the life of a child. So, as you can see, the use of embryos is not the only option. The only problem is that stem cell research cannot occur without federal money.

use of variety of sources (personal experience story)

reemphasizes problem and maintains focus

transition

As my teacher pointed out, the people of the state of California voted for a constitutional amendment which was approved and allowed three hundred million dollars annually to promote stem cell research for a period of ten years. Like the people of California, most of us should realize how important the research is. Without stem cells people are dying unnecessarily because they could be cured with stem cells. The only way to prevent this is for the government to pay for it.

bandwagon technique

emotional appeal

offers solution to the problem

transition

In conclusion, you may think that nothing bad could happen to you, but the truth is stem cell research is important for all of us because we could be that individual suffering from a deadly disease or spinal cord injury, just waiting for a miracle cure. A cure which stem cells may someday offer. Hopefully, you now understand the importance of stem cell research. I urge you to contact your state representatives to support federally funded stem cell research. If we all lend our support to federally funded stem cell

audience awareness (emotional appeal)

audience awareness (call to action)

research, then we could all be a part of saving lives like "Superman."

connects conclusion to introduction

challenge

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of many with federally funded stem cell research.

use of "we" illustrates ownership of the common purpose

- logical, coherent organization is evidenced throughout the piece
- few errors in correction

Next Lessons
* using complete documentation

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Eighth-grade Speech

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