

Petty Party Political Policies

What is the exercise?	Students write and deliver rousing party conference speeches full of rhetoric for exceptionally petty policies
Planning and materials	You may want to come up with the policies yourself in advance.
How many students?	Full class (or an extension activity for a persuasive writing lesson)
How it works	<p>Go through different forms of rhetoric that politicians use when addressing party conferences in hopes of getting hearty applause from their supporters (lists of three, alliteration, antithesis, metaphor, repetition, chiasmus are some good starters. See our rhetoric glossary for more ideas).</p> <p>Give the students a petty policy and ten minutes to prepare a speech with as much rhetoric in as possible. Get students to deliver their speeches to each in small groups and have the best deliver them to the whole class (who applaud and “hear, hear” on cue as if they are the party supporters). The best way to chose a petty policy is to go into the staffroom and ask colleagues what small things really annoy them. The best policy gathered in this way (which works exceptionally well for this exercise) is that “All yoghurt pots should be round”.</p>
Adaptations and Differentiations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extend able pupils with more advanced forms of rhetoric - Provide text (or youtube) of real speeches and get pupils to identify the devises used. - Bring in elements of how delivery of the speech also adds to the rousing feel. - Be the MP yourself and have the students be our speechwriter. Deliver their speeches with as much feeling as possible. - Allow the students to chose their own policies.
Best used	In a key stage three or four English lesson focussing on persuasive language
Your notes:	