

Grade 11 Unit 2 EA 2 Writing and Presenting a Persuasive Speech

Score: Exemplary

Imagine having worked your whole life, only to find that your entire life savings had been ripped away in a single instant. This is what happened to retirees in the Great Depression (ssa.gov). How could they survive with no more savings? That's where Social Security came in as a "safety net"; to catch the retirees caught in an economic plunge. Since then, Social Security has become an excuse to not save for retirement. Now, falling into the safety net is seen as the easier alternative to taking the stairs and saving for retirement on their own. Eventually, the net won't be able to hold everyone up. Social security should be modified to no longer include retirement because of its high costs, inefficiency, and interference in individual lives.

The first problem with Social Security is that it is too expensive for our already-in-debt country to afford. In 2013, \$814 billion were used toward funding Social Security, accounting for 24% of the federal budget (cbpp.org). That money comes straight out of your paychecks. Why would you agree to give up 6% of your paycheck? It's because of the promise that you will see that money again when you reach the age of retirement. Seems fair right? Except for one mountain of a catch. When it was first created, the financier-beneficiary ratio was about 17 to 1. Now, there are only two taxpayers financing every beneficiary (procon.org). It is predicted that by 2040, the beneficiaries will outnumber the amount of people paying, meaning that most likely Social Security will collapse completely (debate.org). That is the catch. Social Security is likely to collapse before you ever see a dime of it. How fair does it seem now?

Another huge problem with Social Security is its inefficiency. The average person could make, at the very least, 5% more money per year if investing privately (procon.org). Retirees could travel or treat their families rather than just making ends meet each month. However, Social Security is not just for retirees. Take Kira for

example, a 34 year old woman in North Carolina living with Cerebral Palsy. She is wheelchair bound and only makes \$400 a month (ssa.gov). Social Security helps get her enough money to live off of. If there was a desire to carefully distribute money, Kira and people like her would be helped even further.

The last issue I would like to address is that Social Security causes too much government involvement in individual lives. 66% of retirees rely on Social Security for their main source of income (cbpp.org). If Social Security were to collapse, these people would be much worse off than if they had saved on their own as well. People should be able to invest privately. Although they may fail, they also may succeed far beyond what they are capable of with their hands being held. Also, no one should be forced to save for retirement or forced to give up their money, even if it is helpful, because it could be seen as obstructing rights (procon.org). Opposition to privatization might bring up what would happen to those who have already been forced put in money for years (procon.org). They still deserve to get all that they put in. One solution could be that no more money would be contributed by individuals, but the 6% that employers pay would be continued. This way, there will be no victims in this government Ponzi scheme.

If Social Security continues on the same path, it cannot continue for long. The huge expenses, inefficiency, and excessive involvement are all leading up to a downfall. Kira, others with disabilities, families that have lost a father or a mother, all depend on Social Security. If Social Security continues and crashes completely, none of these people will have help. As the next generation it's our responsibility to try to fix things before it's too late. It's our responsibility to make a better future. It's our responsibility to do the right thing and change Social Security.

Score Exemplary

Annotation:

In this Exemplary student speech the thesis is not only straightforward and simple, it is also clear and compelling. Over the course of the five paragraph essay, the thesis is developed fully with detailed and cited support included throughout. The writer is fully aware of the audience and appeals to them in a variety of ways - clearly indicating an adept understanding of the value of the organization of a speech and the use of rhetorical appeals. The sequencing of ideas throughout the essay is intentional and adds to the understanding of the argument. By developing each idea clearly, the writer also understands that a speech requires guiding the audience sequentially. The introduction is powerful, creating a hook with the rhetorical question and using a metaphor to clearly establish the claim. The conclusion wraps up the paper in a sophisticated manner and clearly and convincingly calls the reader into action. The writer clearly understands the power of well-placed rhetorical devices evidenced by deliberate and effective use of such devices as a rhetorical question (at the end of paragraph two) and anaphora (in the conclusion). Further, variations in the syntax (especially adept in paragraph two) clearly add to the persuasive impact of the speech.