

# Storytelling: Speaking

## Lesson 4



TAKE POWER. GIVE BACK.

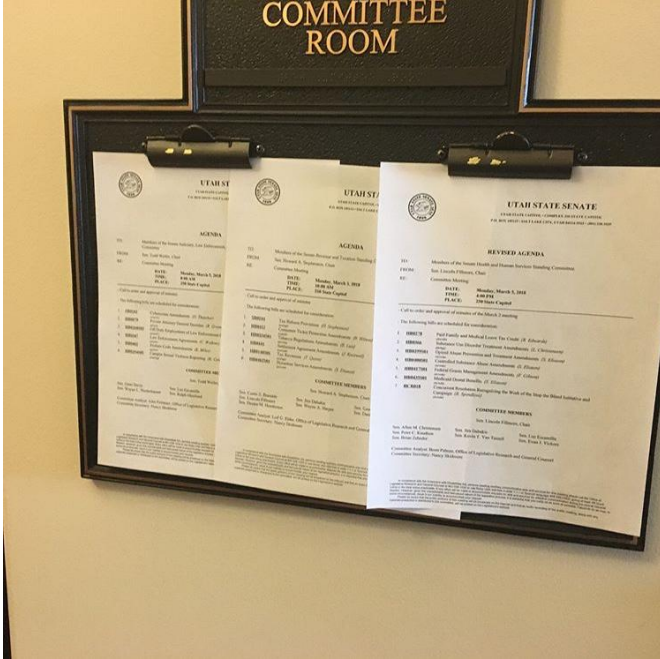
## The Power You Wield



“Testifying has helped me understand that one individual's behavior and actions make a **difference**. That my actions are important to people other than myself.”

Anita Hill

# Testifying



# Editorials vs. Testimonies

## Editorials:

- Read **silently**.
- **Longer** format.

## Speeches:

- Spoken **aloud**.
- **Shorter** format.

How do we convert the passion and structure of our written words into effective **speeches**?

# Structuring Testimony

1. Introduce **yourself!**  
"Chair \_\_\_\_\_, members of the committee . . . ." For the record, state your name, address, and the organization or group you represent (if applicable).
2. Introduce your **story**.
3. Introduce your **beliefs** about the bill.
4. Discuss **why** you believe it: find statistics/studies, answer opposing arguments, etc.
5. Call to **action**: tell your legislator how you want them to vote!

# Structuring Testimony

Example:

## **1. Introduce Yourself**

Chair Jones, members of the committee my name is Sarah Harmon and I live in South Jordan.

## **2. Introduce Your Story**

Last December, I sat down on my parents' bathroom floor as my friend described the events of the night before — the night she was raped. This is not the only time I have dealt with rape. This is not the only bathroom confession I've heard. This is only the most recent.

## **3. Introduce what you believe about the bill and why**

Legislators supporting House Bill 254 argue that protecting the campus community from abusers must be prioritized, even at the cost of a victim's privacy and desires. But protecting survivors is the only way to protect communities. The opposite of rape is ownership of your body. Reclaiming that ownership is central to healing. A community that strips control from survivors is a community where women do not feel safe reporting sexual assault. It is a community where rapists will not only escape punishment, they will escape notice. Communities that fail to prioritize the needs of survivors are not safe communities.

## **4. Tell them how to vote!**

Vote no on HB254 to allow survivors to reclaim their autonomy.

# Delivering Testimony

**Persuasive speakers** take power and give back by:

- Knowing more than they say
- Asking directly for what they want
- Being confident in tone and posture

We can **become** persuasive speakers by:

- Practicing our speeches in the mirror
- Varying our pitch and rate
- Speak slowly and firmly
- Lifting our chins and letting our brilliance shine!

## To-Do's

1. Turn your **op-ed** into a speech!
2. Submit a **video** of you delivering your speech.
3. Watch three videos of Parkland students controlling platforms!





GIRLS  
LOBBY



TAKE POWER. GIVE BACK.