



World Leaders Speech

Climate change will impact **everyone** around the world. Some of those who will be most affected are children. In fact, it is expected that **175 million children** will be affected in some way or another by climate change every single year. However, it is not all doom and gloom! There is **a lot** that we, and children, can do to help. One of the ways children can help is by trying to convince politicians to act!

World leaders are often sheltered from the **consequences** of their decisions and can sometimes use a reminder that appeals to their **emotional** side. That is why this activity focuses on the students writing a speech to call for world leaders to take action.

Instructions

The aim of this activity is for your students to **write** and then **perform** a 2-minute speech. The setting of this speech is at the **UN general assembly** (a big meeting with leaders from all over the world).

The purpose of this speech is to convince **world leaders** that they should help **protect the planet** and to increase their efforts to make sure that climate change does not become **uncontrollable**.

This speech is meant to evoke **feeling** and **emotion** from the audience. It can be spoken from the perspective of the student or it can also be spoken from the perspective of a child somewhere else in the world. For example, a student could choose to speak as a child from the island nation of Tuvalu and talk about rising sea levels impacting their home.

The following links in the next page are **examples** of speeches to world leaders from children. We highly encourage you to watch these with your class so they can have a rough idea of what to aim for and the types of skills needed to make a **successful speech**.

As students present their speeches we recommend you encourage your students to write down one **positive** thing about the speech and one thing to **improve** upon in a small scrap piece of paper. These can then be given to the presenter for feedback.





Alexandria Villaseñor

14 year old climate advocate, makes an opening speech at a UNICEF meeting in 2019: <https://youtu.be/xWLCiXyptdM?t=126>

Recommended clips:

- **2:10-3:15** (point out Alexandria's use of a personal story to make the audience more pay more attention and give a greater impact)

Greta Thunberg

Addressing world leaders at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019: <https://youtu.be/KAJsdgTPJpU?t=33>

Recommended clips:

- **0:35-1:25** (point out Greta's use of emotion and tone to invoke an emotional response from the audience)
- **1:30-2:10** (Greta's use of science and logic make her argument strong and rational)

Severn Cullis-Suzuki

At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992: <https://youtu.be/JGdS8ts63Ck?t=82>

Recommended clips:

- **1:25-2:43** (point out how Severn directly asks the audience a question to get them to pay closer attention)

The following features are useful for students to integrate within their speech:

- Use rhetorical questions
- Use a personal story
- Use emotive language
- Use logic and facts (maybe give students some facts)
- Mind their voice pitch/loudness
- Look at the audience



We welcome feedback and would be delighted to hear your thoughts on this activity. Feel free to send an email to schools@climatescience.org and we'll be sure to get back to you soon :)