

Speaking: arguing a case and presenting

English B2

What this topic teaches

B2 speaking takes the floor and holds it with structure: argue a case (claim, reason, evidence, concession), and present a topic (signposted from map to conclusion). The voice does part of the work.

- Arguing: state, support, concede, restate - in that order, out loud.
- Presenting: signpost ruthlessly (first, turning to, finally); the audience cannot rewind.
- Memory hook: a spoken argument is a **guided tour** : they cannot see the map, so you say it.

Arguing a case: the four moves, out loud

Move	Say something like	It does
state	My view is that...	plants the flag
support	The main reason is... for instance...	carries the weight
concede	Of course, X is true. Even so...	shows both eyes open
restate	So that is why I...	closes the loop

- One claim per turn: a second claim before the first is supported is a dropped flag.
- Concede with your voice level: do not stress the concession harder than the reply.

■ A first try

Four moves on: phones should be allowed in class. *My view is that they should, with rules. The main reason is research speed; for instance, we checked three sources in five minutes on Tuesday. Of course, phones distract. Even so, the distraction rules already exist for paper notes. So that is why I support them.*

Presenting: the signposted tour

A presentation is writing read aloud - no. It is a tour, and tours announce every turn.

Tour stage	Signpost
map	Today I will cover three things: A, B, C.
each stop	First... / Turning to B... / That brings me to C.
inside a stop	The key point here is...
end of tour	To sum up: A gave us..., B showed..., C means...

- Every stop opens with a signpost and closes with a bridge: ...*which brings me to C*.
- The rule of three: three stops is a tour; seven stops is a traffic jam.

The voice at work

B2 speaking uses the instrument, not just the words.

- Stress the load-bearing word: *The MAIN reason is cost* points the ear.
- Pause before the key point, not after it: silence before the climax builds it.
- Slow down for numbers and names; the audience is spelling them in their heads.

Watch out: traps for Chinese speakers

- Do not read slides aloud: slides are the map; the tour is spoken around them.
- Do not end on a detail: the last sentence is the one they keep - make it the summing-up.
- Filler hunting is a mistake at B2: a short pause reads as confidence, an um does not; replace fillers with silence.

Check yourself

- The four moves of a spoken argument: name them in order.
- Signpost the move from stop B to stop C.
- Where does the pause go: before or after the key point?
- End of tour: what does the last sentence do?