

Persuasive Platform Topic (April 2026): U.S. President’s War Powers (CON)

Outline Due Date: Sunday, April 12, 2026 – before going to bed Sunday night.

Video Recording Due Date: Sunday, April 19, 2026 – before going to bed Sunday night.

Reducing the U.S. President’s War Powers (April 2026) - CON

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Hook: *Imagine...*

Working with a group of leaders who are very slow! [Explain = Remember Zootopia?]

- 2. Topic: *Today, we will discuss...*

Reducing the U.S. President’s “War Powers”.

What I mean by this, is...

This is important, because...

- 3. Thesis: *I believe...*

Reducing the U.S. President’s “War Powers” would be undesirable.

- 4. Preview: *To prove this, we will discuss...*

Threatening Security, Causing Innocent People to Suffer, and Harming Democracy.

- 5. Transition: *To begin, let’s discuss...*

Threatening Security

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U.S. President's War Powers (April 2026): *Continued...*

BODY PARAGRAPH #1: Threatening Global Security

- 1. Statement: *Reducing the president's war powers will...*

Harm National Security

- 2. Explain: *Because...*

- 3. Evidence: *For example...*

First... We promised to protect our allies (Enemies = more likely to attack)!

[OPTIONAL] *According to...*

Our research says (or "It states...")...

This is important because...

Also... We must be able to respond quickly to serious threats (Congress = Too Slow)!

[OPTIONAL] *According to...*

Our research says (or "It states...")...

This is important because...

- 4. Closing: *Therefore...*

Reducing the presidents war powers WILL harm U.S. National Security!

- 5. Transition: *Next we will discuss...*

Failing to Protect Innocent People

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BODY PARAGRAPH #2: Causing Innocent People to Suffer

- 1. Statement: *Reducing the president’s war powers will...*

Cause innocent people to suffer

- 2. Explain: *Because...*

- 3. Evidence: *For example...*

First... We promised to protect innocent people from harm (Promise = human rights treaties)!

[OPTIONAL] *According to...*

Our research says (or “It states...”)...

This is important because...

Also... People will suffer, many will die, while waiting for the U.S. to decide (Congress = Too Slow!)

[OPTIONAL] *According to...*

Our research says (or “It states...”)...

This is important because...

- 4. Closing: *Therefore...*

Reducing the presidents war powers WILL cause innocent people to suffer!

- 5. Transition: *Next we will discuss...*

Harming Democracy

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BODY PARAGRAPH #3: Harming Democracy

- 1. Statement: *Reducing the president’s war powers will...*

Harm Democracy

- 2. Explain: *Because...*

- 3. Evidence: *For example...*

First... U.S. law currently says that presidents must be allowed to respond to a crisis!

[OPTIONAL] *According to...*

Our research says (or “It states...”)...

This is important because...

Also... The U.S. president was elected by the citizens to make these kinds of decisions!

[OPTIONAL] *According to...*

Our research says (or “It states...”)...

This is important because...

- 4. Closing: *Therefore...*

Reducing the presidents war powers WILL harm democracy!

- 5. Transition: [A ‘Silent’* Transition]

*For the last body paragraph, we skip the transition and ‘silently’ move to the conclusion (Review).

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CONCLUSION

1. Review: *Today, we discussed...*
Threatening Security, Failing to Protect Innocent People, and
2. Restate (Thesis): *To prove that...*
Reducing the US President’s “War Powers” would be undesirable
3. Remind (Hook): *Earlier, I mentioned...*
A group of leaders who move too slowly! [Explain]

4. Call to Action: *So...*
“What do you think... [Explain: Should a leader be allowed to act swiftly during an emergency?]”

5. Ending: *Thank you...*
[Lower Head (or bow slightly) = 1 second]