

General Purpose: To persuade

Specific Purpose: To persuade the audience to support our troops by sending a care package, a letter/email or by making a donation.

Attention Step:

(Open with Impact) Today, like many Americans you woke up in a comfortable bed and conducted your morning rituals. Perhaps you took a hot shower. Maybe you fixed breakfast or stopped by a Starbucks or McDonalds. Maybe like many other Americans, you woke up late or didn't sleep well at all. Perhaps your roommate took a shower first this morning, and there wasn't much hot water left for you. Since you're running late you didn't have time to make breakfast. Traffic is horrible on the way to school and it seemed to take forever to find a parking spot. Whether your day is going great or it feels like everything has been out to get you, understand there are still troops in substandard living conditions thousands of miles away overseas. They are fighting EVERYDAY so you can wake up at whatever time you want and have whatever kind of day you want. (Thesis) Regardless of how you view war, it's vital that our troops know the American people care for them. (Connect with Audience) By a show of hands, who here knows someone who is or has been deployed to a combat zone? For those of you with your hands down, I want you to know you are still directly affected. There are fellow Americans fighting and dying so we can go to college and take spring break vacations. (Preview) Today I will explain why we must show support for the troops, what you can do to help and how these simple actions can affect the troops.

Need Step:

As of Today, according to a Tulsa World Newspaper article published 28 March 2009, retrieved from the Newsbank database on 29 March 2009, there have been 4,262 troops killed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During Operation Enduring Freedom 599 troops have died. Combat troops are constantly in life or death situations and see human carnage on a scale only war can produce. The dead will never be able to raise a family and those who survive may struggle with what they experienced for the rest of their lives.

An article by Helene Cooper and Eric Schmitt in the New York Times published 28 March 2009, retrieved 29 March 2009 from the online Newsbank database explains that President Obama authorized 4,000 more troops to be sent to Afghanistan for training purposes. This is in addition to the 17,000 Combat troops he has already promised. This war on Terrorism, like the war on drugs is far from over. Troops still need our support.

These men and woman give up their way of life so we don't have to. They miss out on some of life's greatest moments with their friends and families. Many can't be with their wives for childbirth. They aren't there to witness their son hit his first home

run. What's more important to remember is they risk serious injury and death to themselves.

(Signpost and transition: I want you to remember the last time you had a bad day. Who did you call? Most of us have someone who can reassure us during hard times and can give us that emotional support that we as humans need. It's a few simple words from people who care that get us through the toughest of times.)

Satisfaction Step:

Here at home it's easy to show support for friends and family but what about those troops who need it thousands of miles away? How can you show your support and express your gratitude for the troops?

There are many options available:

1. You can donate frequent flyer miles so loved ones of wounded soldiers can fly to hospitals in Germany and be closer to them.
2. Send packages. I don't know what I would have done without baby wipes over there. Entertainment is a necessity that is widely overlooked. Send magazines, travel games, DVD's and books.
3. There are plenty of websites that take donations then send off packages of their own. **For example Simon provide a short list such as 3 (perhaps we can get a flip chart for the studio and have that available as a visual? Maybe some care-package items too?)**
4. From my own personal experience, a letter from a complete stranger back home thanking me for my sacrifice was the most satisfying thing of all. I urge you to **HANDWRITE** a letter simply expressing how you hope they come home safe so they can be with their families again. Tell them about your day, give them facts about yourself and tell them they have not been forgotten.

It only takes a few minutes to put your thoughts and feelings onto a piece of paper or in an email. Girls, write on purple paper with pink ink. Spray some of your perfume so when these guys open it a couple weeks later they can have a sense of home and familiarity. I have here boxes that are pre-addressed and prepaid so all you have to do is fill them with items. **Is there anything guys can do for the women soldiers? 😊**

(Signpost and transition: It's easy to say we are appreciative of everything our troops do for us, and I think it's cute to see the occasional "support our troops" car magnet. We need to take it to another level. It's an entirely different show of support when you take action.)

Visualization Step:

Words of appreciation and thankfulness give soldiers who are fighting on the front lines the will to drive on. It really does make them stronger. The words of encouragement I received in letters from people all across the country shocks me to this day still.

Mail would be delivered once a month, twice if we were lucky. There were always packages and everyone eyed the big ones hoping their named would be called. The times we were most excited were when the envelopes were passed out. We knew there weren't any baby wipes or beef jerky in it. This was something that couldn't be worn down or discarded. These letters were saved and carefully pinned up in our living spaces so we could look at them whenever we chose.

Knowing that strangers care enough to write and say thank you is the greatest gift you can give. Can you imagine a soldier receiving your handwritten letter, and pinning it up? What a feeling to know your letter is comforting a fellow American working to make your daily life comfortable.

Action Step:

(Summarize) Today I have explained why we should show support for troops overseas, what you can do to help, and I've told you the lasting effects it can have. **(Call for Action)** Today I ask that you take the time to give back to those men and women who are serving you, our country and our rights of freedom. Today I ask that you take the time to write a letter, send a care-package, or make a donation. **(Close with Impact)** I believe many Americans take for granted the blanket of security that is provided to them while they sleep. Show that you care. Show that you do not take for granted that which has and will always be precious. At the risk of sounding cliché I believe JFK said it best in his 1961 Inaugural Address, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

References

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