Speaking and Listening – Level 10

Sample 1 Oral presentation: Addressing the gender pay gap

STUDENT Equal pay for equal work – it’s common-sense, it’s also overdue. Let’s close the gap and let's do it now.

The topic of my speech is the gender pay gap and the issue of that topic is: Should employers be required to pay men and women the same amount of salary when performing the same job?

The gender pay gap is the difference between the remuneration for men and women who are working. Men are getting paid more than women as I speak all over the world and I believe there must be an end to it.

The gender pay gap is influenced by a number of factors, including bias and discrimination in hiring and pay decisions and women's greater time out of the workplace impacting career progression and opportunities. I see none of these influences as appropriate excuses for what is happening in the world right now. What is happening to your mothers, to your sisters, to your cousins, and any other females in your life. Women earn on average $239.80 per week less than men. And I believe together we can end the gap for good.

Women are not being paid the equal amount they deserve. And if you believe it’s a myth, do the math. The first reason I believe employers must be required to pay men and women the same is the inequality it promotes to women everywhere. Equal rights has been a large problem in the world for more than 35 years. And the fact that this is still a reoccurring issue is extremely disappointing and unacceptable.

Famous actress Judy Greer once said in an interview, ‘If I were a man, I’d be paid more.’ How can someone witness this issue that is insulting women every day and think that it’s OK? This kind of gender inequality takes us all the way back to the 1950s when women were known as purely housewives and nothing more. We are now in 2019 and the disrespect continues with a female’s annual salary at only 78% of the average male salary. We can’t let this continue.

Another argument I’d like to address is that women everywhere … children everywhere are witnessing these examples adults are setting. What kind of values are we handing down to the younger generation and future leaders if we are showing them that it doesn’t matter how hard you work, if you are a girl, you will be paid less? It simply isn’t right, and if we have the children of our society believing it is, we should fear for what our world will come to, and prepare to never see the day when no matter what sex you are, you will be treated equal.

My third argument why women should be paid the same as men is that free speech is promoted all over the world but women still don’t have a say in how much they’re getting paid. Our world and society in this time gives us the right to speak our minds and allows us to make our own choices. But this isn’t fully the case for the female population as women’s ‘choices’ are not necessarily choices. Women should have rights and an ability to be in control of what they are receiving. Too many women are not getting what they deserve, and they deserve to have a say, they deserve to be in control, and they deserve to be treated the exact same as men.

Many ask, ‘Where do we really stand when it comes to gender equality?’ And the answer is, we’re just not there yet. A change must be made and that change starts with you.

I think we should all look around the room and think about what we see. When I look, I don’t see different hair lengths, I don’t see different body types, and I don’t see different skin colours. I see humans. Humans who all have hearts and all have brains. So why should a group of those humans be treated better than others?

It’s indisputable that there’s a real pay gap. People can argue how big, but that’s almost besides the point. The point is, that every woman, every girl, deserves to get paid what they’re worth.

Before I conclude my speech, I’d like to ask a series of questions. How would any of you feel if because you had blue eyes, you weren’t allowed to watch TV? Or because you were overweight, you weren’t allowed to eat at certain food places? I can only imagine the answers to these questions, and it’s because they simply don’t make sense. And something exactly the same as these examples is going on in the world everywhere.

I think instead of the world seeing us for our differences, we should be seen as simply human. And this starts by requiring employers to pay men and women the same amount of salary when performing the same job.

Thank you.