Name: Period: Date:

Speech Example 1: How to Choose a Book

Yesterday, I walked into Borders and thought, "Wow! Look at all these books! How many books could possibly be published in one day?" Maybe you've wondered, too; how many new books are published each day in America? Twelve? Twenty? Five hundred? Try 4,168. There are over four thousand books published each day--and today I will teach you how to pick out the one that's right for you.

First, you must find a place that sells or loans books. If you have some money to spare, stores like Borders, Barnes and Noble, Target, and WalMart all have a range of titles for sale. If you don't have a lot of money, garage sales, second hand stores, and websites such as "amazon.com" are affordable alternatives. If you don't have any money, you can go to your local library or school library; but you may need a parent or guardian's signature to get a library card.

Second, figure out what genre, or type, of book you want to read. Do you like magic and adventure with a lot of sword fights? Then head for the "fantasy" section. Do you like famous figures from history? Try autobiographies and biographies in the non-fiction section. Do you like juicy stories written to entertain and read like an episode of Gossip Girls? Try adolescent novels.

Finally, assess the book to see if it's interesting. Read the back cover to get an overview of the plot, check to see if the author has written other books you like or don't like. When in doubt, read the first page. One librarian's tip: if you count five words you don't recognize on the first page, you probably won't like the book.

So find a place to get the books, narrow your selections down, and check out the back. There are three easy steps to finding a book you'll love!

Name: Period: Date:

Speech Example 2: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art may be best known for its sculpture of a shuttlecock or badminton birdie on its front lawn, but it's also home to many other forms of art. Photography, paintings, and sculpture are a few of its high points.

First, the museum has a great photography section. A large amount of photographs were donated by Donald Hall, one of the head founders of Hallmark. There are also photos from Andy Warhol.

Next, there are sculptures.

But the most famous section is the collection of Asian art. One of the largest collections of Asian art in the country. Lawrence Sickman, then a Harvard student traveling in China, fell in love with Chinese art and collected it throughout his life. He donated his collection to the museum later helping it grow into much celebrated collection.

If you're in Kansas City, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art is a must see; from photographs to sculptures, to Asian art, it has something to please even the pickiest art critics.