SPEAK TRUTH: Advocacy Script

INTRODUCE YOURSELF + WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

"Hi, my name is [your name], and I'm speaking today because this issue affects me, my peers, and my community."

"This matters to me because [share personal connection—e.g., I've lived it, I've seen the harm it causes, or it connects to my values]."

SHARE YOUR STORY OR PERSPECTIVE

"Let me tell you a quick story…"
(Keep it honest, focused, and specific. You don't need to share everything—just enough to show why it matters.)

Example: "In 9th grade, I missed over 20 days of school because I didn't have stable housing. I was scared to tell anyone because I didn't want to get in trouble. But instead of support, I got detention for being late."

"My story isn't unique—and that's the problem."

CONNECT IT TO A BIGGER ISSUE

"What happened to me is part of a larger pattern. This is about [insert systemic issue—e.g., how schools treat youth experiencing homelessness, the lack of mental health resources, bias in discipline policies, etc.]."

"When we ignore these stories, we ignore solutions."

CALL FOR ACTION OR CHANGE

"I'm asking you to [insert specific action—e.g., change a policy, support a campaign, include youth voice, allocate funding, etc.]."

"This isn't just about awareness—it's about change. And change starts when we listen."

CLOSE WITH POWER

"Thank you for hearing my story. I hope you remember it—not because it was easy to tell, but because it's part of the truth that needs to be heard."

"I believe young people have power, and I'm using mine today to speak truth."

Optional Fill-in-the-Blanks Practice

- This issue matters to me because: _____

- A story I can share is: _____

- What I want to change is: _____

- The action I'm asking for is: _____

- I am speaking truth because: _____