

Cheerleader/Hannah #2

Revised 7-29-10

21.

MISS EDWARDS

I'm encouraging you to write something effectively. With conviction.

(to audience)

Am I sacrificing his virginity for a good paper? If he valued it, sure. If he still has it, sure.

(to Joe)

Not that I don't have an opinion on the pitfalls of premarital sex, but I know your low threshold for listening to me, and that I can only control what goes on in this room.

JOE

I don't have to actually give this essay to my girlfriend...

MISS EDWARDS

Only if you think it'll help. And if it does, use protection.

JOE

And if I don't write this "persuasive" essay...

MISS EDWARDS

You fail.

JOE

You've persuaded me.

FADE UP on CHEERLEADER who bounds in for another cheer

START

CHEERLEADER

Beeee persuasive
Be, be persuasive
Defend your position
Know your opposition
Don't forget your mission
Bring them to submission!
Base your composition
On your recognition
Of the inhibition
In their disposition!

Stra-te-gy
Give 'em 1-2-3
Reasons to agree

(MORE)

CHEERLEADER (CONT'D)

And you will beeeeeeee persuasive
 Be, be persuasive
 Make your supposition
 Give it ammunition
 Then a quick transition
 Back to your position
 Vic-to-ry is a guarantee
 If your motto beeeeeee persuasive!!!

FADE OUT on Cheerleader.

SCENE FIVE

FADE UP ON the classroom. Joe sits at a desk with a blank piece of paper on it, hating life. Miss Edwards, grading papers, looks up, regards him, and comments:

MISS EDWARDS

(to audience)

Writing about sex has lessened
 Joe's interest in the subject.
 Joe's girlfriend is a cheerleader.
 She always has his attention. She
 could teach him English. That the
 topic sentence makes the argument
 the rest of your persuasive essay
 must defend. I, however, have to
 resort to acting out of character:
 (then, to Joe)
 Fuck you.

JOE

(to audience)

She's really different after three
 o'clock.

LIGHT UP ON CHEERLEADER (HANNAH), who cheers, in bouncy, as opposed to suggestive form:

CHEERLEADER

F-u-c-k - fuck you!

FADE OUT on Cheerleader.

MISS EDWARDS

Now what is the object of that
 sentence?

JOE

To piss me off?

Miss Edwards starts diagramming the sentence on the board.