Good morning elders, lecturers, and fellow students. My name is ... ... I come from a small and rural town in North Queensland called Ayr and belong to the Birri-Gubba tribe which inhabit that area. This is my first year at Batchelor and I am currently studying primary education.

Before I begin my speech I would like to respect, thank and acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet.

In this speech I will be talking to you about the necessity and importance of making a stand in our communities.

I will be talking about the results and outcomes of making a stand and whom it will effect and influence being males and females, Indigenous and non-Indigenous and political and non-political.

Firstly, I will explain that making a stand is necessary.

Secondly, I will describe what Australia will be like when we, Indigenous people, make a stand in our communities.

Thirdly, I will paint a picture of what Australia will be like if we don't stand up and be counted.

I will end by restating the importance of making a stand and standing up for what we believe.

I now come to the first part of my speech. In this part I will explain that making a stand and standing up for what we believe is important and is a necessity.

I was recently at a community meeting where the speaker was talking about an issue that I, along with many others strongly disagreed with. But what did we do? Nothing. Standing up for what you believe is not a right. Making a stand in your community is a responsibility that you and I must carry out.

Making a stand in the community is a necessity and responsibility that everyone, both young and old, needs to be involved in today, tomorrow and forever, and we need to do it now.

Now is the time to fight for equality, equity and social justice.

Now is the time to make a difference in society and speak up about our issues and concerns.

Now is the time to stand up and be counted.

Now that I have enlightened you on the importance of making a stand, I will now paint a picture of what Australia will be like if we don't make a stand in our communities.

First, let me paint a picture of what Australia will be like if we don't take the responsibility and duty of standing up and speaking up in our communities.

If we don't make a stand, our people will get left out of the important decision making for our country that effects and influences the Indigenous people and communities in Australia.

If we don't make a stand, our people will be looked down on as inferior instead of equal.

If we don't make a stand, our future generations will have no hope in the steady and ongoing process of reconciliation.

You can see what will happen when we don't make a stand, but in the next part of my speech, I will paint a picture of what Australia will be like if we
do make a stand.

**Model**

Now, imagine and picture what Australia will be like when Indigenous people make a firm and solid stand in their communities. Standing up for their ideas, beliefs, and their culture.

When we make a stand, our people will be recognised.
When we make a stand, our people will be respected and acknowledged.
When we make a stand, reconciliation will inhabit and dwell in this country we call home.

**Transition to the last part**

We don't want Australia to end up like this. Do we? In coming to the end of my speech, I will declare again the importance of making a stand in your community.

**Slogan**

Do you stand up and speak up for your ideas, beliefs and culture in your community?
Do you want the Indigenous people of this country to be recognised, respected and reconciled?
Let's make a stand. It's up to you, me, and up to the future generations of Indigenous people to make a difference to this country.
So don't stand around, stand up and make a difference in your community, in your state and in our country.
Thank you for listening. It has be both a privilege and a pleasure to speak and share with you.