

[What follows is adapted from spoken testimony given by FACT members in 2013 representing their FACT group. This is an example of what a spoken testimony might look like if you follow the template and personalize it. For current messaging refer to this year's FACT Talking Points.]

FACT Spoken Testimony Example

Good morning/afternoon Co-Chairs LAST NAME and LAST NAME and Members of the Committee. We are youth volunteers representing FACT, Wisconsin's youth tobacco prevention program. Thank you for this opportunity to speak about something we feel very strongly about, youth tobacco use. I'm FIRST LAST NAME, I live in CITY and I am a AGE year old GRADE at SCHOOL.

Hi, I'm FIRST LAST NAME, I also live in CITY and am a AGE year old GRADE at SCHOOL.
Hello, I'm FIRST LAST NAME, I too live in CITY and I am a AGE year old GRADE at SCHOOL.

I am speaking to you today in honor of my friends, my family, and my community members who have been negatively impacted by tobacco.

I started volunteering with FACT because I wanted to prevent as many people as possible from starting to use tobacco products. This is personal for me, as my best friend, XXXX who is here with me today, lost her dad four years ago from a heart attack due to smoking. (XXXXX put arm around XXXXX) This has caused her such deep pain that she isn't able to talk about it yet and that is why I am sharing her story. It breaks my heart that she won't have him with her at critical life changing moments such as her graduation, her wedding, and her having children. She misses him every day.

As youth we hear a lot of information about how harmful it is to use tobacco. What we don't hear about are the dangers of the new tobacco/nicotine products like e-cigarettes, little cigars, and smokeless tobacco, and that's why youth tobacco prevention is so important. These products are all available in dangerously delicious candy flavors and colorful packaging. Some of these products have more than 3 times the nicotine as one cigarette. These products are addictive, they cause tooth decay, gum disease and all different kinds of cancer.

Our FACT group doesn't tell youth what to do. We give them the information through fun tobacco awareness activities and empower them to make a more informed decision.

We need youth tobacco prevention programs like FACT to continue because they work. Youth smoking rates have decreased over the years and although progress has been made with smoking rates, I am very concerned about the new tobacco products that are out there, because they are cheaper than cigarettes AND very appealing to youth.

Right now, 12.5% of Wisconsin high school students use a tobacco product on a regular basis. That's one in eight. This is someone's child, grandchild, sister, or brother that has made this choice and has begun an addiction at such a young age that could last for the rest of their life.

This is why we need to continue the work we are doing so we can save lives! Thank you.