

*The speaker begins with an extended example to gain attention and interest. The example is specific and detailed. We are told Matthew Garvey's name and age, where he lived, the kind of work he did, and how he was injured. These are the kinds of details that bring examples to life and help get listeners involved in a speech.*

The speaker moves into testimony suggesting that the opening story is representative of a major problem in the U.S. When you use an extended example, it is usually a good idea to precede or follow the example with statistics or testimony showing that the example is not unusual or exceptional.

In her first main point the speaker explores the problem of child-labor law violations in the United States. She begins by summarizing the provisions of the law. Notice how she identifies the Web site where she acquired the information.

Statistics in this and the next paragraph back up the speaker's point that violations of child-labor laws are widespread in the U.S. Rather than giving the exact number of violations, she rounds them off, making them easier to grasp and recall.

The speaker uses a combination of statistics and testimony to support her point about child-labor abuses in the garment industry. The statement from Thomas Gubiak is an example of expert testimony; the closing quotation from Faviola Flores is an instance of peer testimony.

Matthew Garvey was just 13 years old when he was hired by Quality Car Wash in Laurel, Maryland, to towel-dry cars as they came off the line. Not long after he began working, Matthew lost his right leg when it got caught in an industrial machine used to suck the moisture out of the towels. After investigating, the U.S. Department of Labor fined the car wash for illegally hiring a minor and for operating a machine with a broken safety lid.

This is just one of the more tragic examples of what Jeffrey Newman of the National Child Labor Committee calls the "crisis" of child-labor law abuses in the United States. In researching this speech, I discovered that employers from New York to California are breaking the law by hiring children from ages 7 to 17 who often put in long, hard hours in dangerous conditions. Today I would like to show you the extent of the problem and how it jeopardizes the education and safety of millions of young people.

To understand the problem of child-labor law violations, we need to begin by looking at the provisions of the law. As explained on the U.S. Department of Labor Web site, the Fair Labor Standards Act sets a minimum working age of 14. It limits 14-year-olds and 15-year-olds to three hours of work on school days, prohibits them from working after 7 at night, and allows them a total of 18 work hours per week during the school year. The law also restricts employment of children under 18 in dangerous jobs such as construction, meat-cutting, and mining.

Passed in 1938 and amended several times since, the Fair Labor Standards Act was designed to prevent the exploitation of child labor that took place during the 19th century. Yet today violations of the law are shockingly widespread. According to the Associated Press, 148,000 minors in the U.S. are employed illegally in nonagricultural jobs during an average week, working too many hours or in hazardous conditions. In addition, the National Child Labor Committee reports that more than 110,000 children work illegally on U.S. farms.

Some of the most serious violations occur in garment industry factories known as sweatshops that hire immigrant children at rates well below minimum wage. The Associated Press estimates that as many as 2,600 minors are employed illegally in New York City sweatshops. Thomas Gubiak, head of the city's garment district task force, says "most of the children in these factories are below 18, some as young as 8." Like Faviola Flores, a 15-year-old Mexican girl in a Manhattan sweatshop, they toil