


## Activity 2: Giving a speech – Severn Suzuki

- 1  Severn Suzuki gave a speech at the Rio Summit in 1992 and became known as the “girl who silenced the world for 5 minutes”. The video of her speech went viral and is still widely quoted today. Find the video of her delivering the speech and watch it. Note down the issues she addresses in it. Think about what made it so successful. Discuss your ideas with a partner.
- 2 Find a transcript of her speech and read through it, then answer the following questions:
  - Identify the structure of the speech (introduction, main part, conclusion)
  - How does she establish contact with her audience?
  - What do you notice about the language she uses?
  - What stylistic devices does she use?
  - What examples does she use to make her point?
  - She admonishes the adults twice – what does she say?
- 3 Twenty years later, Severn Suzuki was asked in an interview what young people can do to make a difference. She replied, “First follow your passion. What are you interested in? What are you good at? Society now needs everyone in every field to become sustainable. People think to make a difference they must become an ‘environmentalist’. I disagree. Become whatever you’re interested in first and then bring sustainability to it.” Discuss her statement in class.

