Speeches

Now that you’ve written your constitutional based essays, it’s time for you to share all your hard work with your classmates. The way you share this will be through a 3-5 minute speech that touches base on the following criteria listed below. How you decide to arrange your speech is up to you—make it memorable and one that shows time and practice. You will receive one notecard to bring on stage with you.

Introduction. 5 points

* Hook us. Give us something that catches our attention. Ask a question; give a surprising fact or a quote. Be aware of your audience.
* Introduce the issue and state very clearly how you feel about it.
* Make sure to mention how you believe your issue relates to the constitution, democratic ideals, and common good vs. individual right.

First “paragraph”: Constitutional? 5 points:

* Make very clear whether or not you feel your supports or goes against the constitution.
* Explain how your position relates to a SPECFIC amendment. Describe the amendment and explain how it specifically supports or goes against your issue.

Second “paragraph”: Democratic Ideals. 5 points

* Make very clear whether or not your issue goes against or supports the democratic ideals.
* State which democratic ideal(s) your issue supports/goes against.
* Define the democratic ideal(s)
* Explain specifically how your issue relates that that/those Ideals.

Third “paragraph”: Common good vs. individual rights. 5 points

* State how your issue weighs on the “scale.” Does it tip towards common good? Does it consider individual rights more? Is it balanced?
* Define common good vs. individual right, act as if I have no idea what this concept is.
* Explain whether or not your issues “scale” is for the better or if it’s not ok and why.

Concluding “paragraph.” 5 points.

* State your stance (Searches and seizures are an absolutely necessary sacrifice students need to accept in order to create a safer environment in schools…)
* Explain why your issue needs to stay or why your issue needs to be eliminated.
* Call to action: what should we do-what can we do- in order to save/eliminate your issue?

Body Language. 10 points

* **Eye contact:** look at us when you talk, not at your notecard.
* **Hands:** use for emphasis, don’t let them become a distraction.
* Posture: stand up tall and straight, don’t slouch or sway. You can move, but do it confidently.
* **Tone:** we need to hear you loud and clear! We have all had to sit through presentations when we can’t hear them and it’s not fun.
* **Delivery:** The delivery needs to be smooth. It’s normal to get lost when we are nervous, but the more you practice the less it will happen. Also, it’s important to have your notecard arranged so that if you do get lost, you can refer to the card to find yourself again.