Congressional Debate/ Research Project

Due Dates: TBA
Worth:
____ points for paper
____ points for the speech
____ points cross examination
____ points for representative questions

TASK:
You will be researching and writing skeleton arguments on TWO pieces of legislation (try to contain your excitement). Then you will stand and deliver ONE of your arguments (can't wait--can you?). When you do, you will present a speech to convince your audience of one side of a debate topic. Your primary focus is to create a sound argument in which you use evidence to make your case. You will have up to 3 minutes for your speech and 1+ minutes of cross examination. You will also be expected to ask questions of other speakers (regardless of topic).

Research from Reputable Sources
- a reputable source generally contains opposing arguments: affirmative and negative information
- a reputable source might come from an article entitled "The Benefits and Drawbacks of the Death Penalty" from *Time Magazine*
- an ill reputable source might be found at "screwassaultrifles.org"

To guarantee you're getting good research, go to: **www.elibrary.com**
User Name: ANALYREMOTE   **Password:** REMOTE001

As you collect the research, use the e-mail option to send yourself copies of the documents. It is important that you actually READ the material to be able to extract good data. You may want to use Easybib MANUAL citing to format your sources correctly for your Works Cited page.

Collect Citation Information
You should also be collecting citation information for each of your articles.

E-library makes this too easy for you by giving you a button to click on at the top of the article.
 Observe 2016 MLA Guidelines:

Willamson, Lynette. "How Coaching Forensics Made Me a Better Writing Coach." *English Journal* 51 (2007): 53-59. *ELibrary [ProQuest].* Web. 3 Aug. 2016.

You will need the basic citation information to include in your speech skeleton AND you will need the complete citation for inclusion in a finalized essay version of one of your speeches later on. So SAVE YOUR CITATION INFORMATION!

Debate topics to be announced

Project Requirements and Grading Criteria

Your speech is/has:
1. Relevant and thoughtful attention grabbing introduction and clear, confident conclusion
   a. engage us and end with a strong last line
2. Effective use of *sign posting* to signal your audience when you are transitioning from one contention to another
3. Clear and well organized
4. Offer several reasons to vote for your side of the debate
   a. LOGOS: solid reasoning (avoid leaps in logic—explain how and why)
   b. ETHOS: thorough development of argument (maximize your use of the time)
   c. Primary sourced and well-selected evidence (incorporate apt quotes into your speech)
   d. PATHOS: appeal to our emotions and make us feel a sense of urgency
5. Effective dining with the opposition, apt anticipation of the other's side argument, precise and decisive *CLASH* with the opponent
   a. addresses opponents' strongest arguments (use the 4-step refute!)
   b. responds well during cross-examination (address questions thoroughly)
6. Uses time effectively: be close to 3 mins with 1 or more minutes of cross examination
7. Use several persuasive techniques & follow congressional speech conventions
8. Effective delivery: strong eye contact, voice variety and volume; use gestures and movement to emphasis your points.
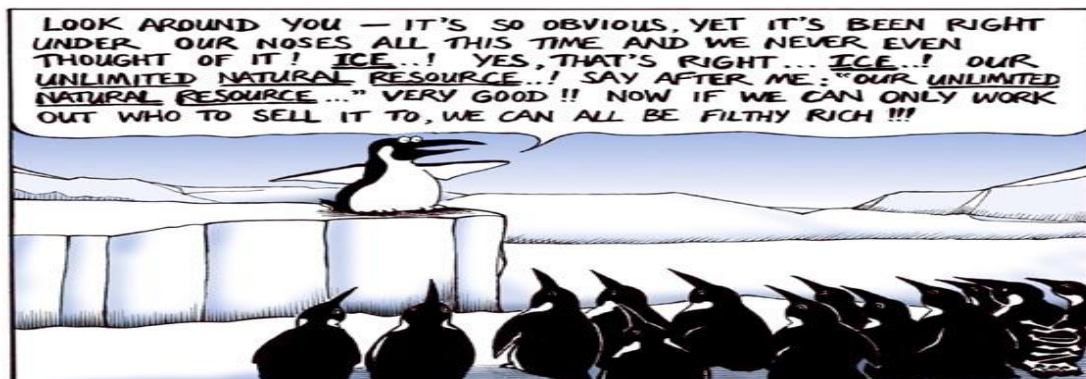
Your essay must:
1. have the correct formatting: MLA formatting and works cited page.
2. show evidence of extensive and quality research (to be cited correctly)
3. employ persuasive techniques such as ethos, pathos, and logos--dynamic language, appeals to your audience, dining with the opposition, building a rhetorical structure, offering counter-arguments, offer a comparison, explain a process, or discuss cause and/or effect
4. be absolutely clean of ALL spelling and grammar usage errors.

Grading Criteria

You will turn in TWO speech skeletons
SKELETON OF CONGRESSIONAL SPEECH
1. **INTEREST CATCHER**
2. **CLASH** (1/2 a page left blank for notes that will fuel)
3. **YOUR POSITION (A.K.A. THESIS==MAJOR CLAIM)**
   a. A general statement of <u>**why**</u> you favor or oppose the legislation
4. **CLAIMS/WARRANTS**
   a. Answers the question: **WHY** is your position true?
5. **DATA**
   a. **TWO** pieces of DATA per reason
   b. Must include references to source (e.g. "According to *Time* magazine of June 12, 2011...")
6. **CONCLUSION**

LOOK AROUND YOU — IT'S SO OBVIOUS, YET IT'S BEEN RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES ALL THIS TIME AND WE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF IT! ICE..! YES, THAT'S RIGHT... ICE..! OUR UNLIMITED NATURAL RESOURCE..! SAY AFTER ME: "OUR UNLIMITED NATURAL RESOURCE..." VERY GOOD!! NOW IF WE CAN ONLY WORK OUT WHO TO SELL IT TO, WE CAN ALL BE FILTHY RICH!!!

Penguin motivational speakers.

<div align="center">Sample Student Congress Speech Skeleton
For a Three Minute Speech</div>

I. Interest Catcher
(The introduction – about 10-15 seconds)
- Try a statistic, a story, a quote, a rhetorical question, or an analogy.

II. Rebuttal of Previous Arguments
(Why the other side is wrong – 1 to 1. 5 minutes)
- Leave at least a half page hole in your speech for notes. Use evidence or logic to refute the other side's arguments. Then clash with the opposing arguments (This is where the 4-step refutation comes in handy.: 1.*Senator Smith said yada yada yada, 2. but I disagree or and I agree 3. because or however blah blah blah! 4. Therefore, cha cha cha)*

III. Your Position (Claim)
(Why you're right –1. 5 to 2 minutes)

Try to have at least two reasons (warrants). Three is ideal
- Reason # 1. (Warrant) Answers the question WHY is your position true? Give one reason, then support it with evidence (quotes, statistics, stories). Try to have two pieces of evidence per reason, and include sources for you evidence.
- Reason # 2. (Warrant) Answers the question WHY is your position true?
- Reason # 3. (Warrant) Answers the question WHY is your position true?
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IV. Conclusions
(Tell 'em what you told 'em! – about 15 to 20 seconds)
- State your points again as a recap.
- To finish up, add a final clinching blow. Try a statistic, quote, rhetorical question, analogy, or a story.

"I am now open for cross-examination and points of clarification"