

Famous Speeches in American History

Grades: 6th – 9th
Day of Week: Wednesday
Time of Class: 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET
Length of Class: 10 weeks
Semester: Spring 2021

High School Credit: If taking as a 9th grader: .5 – History (American)

Class Dates:

Week 1: April 7
Week 2: April 14
Week 3: April 21
Week 4: April 28
Week 5: May 5
Mid-Term Break May 10 - 16 (Eid Al Fitr)
Week 6: May 19
Week 7: May 26
Week 8: June 2
Week 9: June 9
Week 10: June 16
Make Up Week: June 23

Instructor's Name: Jonathan Meola
Instructor's Email: jonathan@opententacademy.com
Instructor's Phone: (703) 982-0684
Instructor's Whatsapp: (703) 982-0684
Office Hours: By appointment

Description of Class:

Historic speeches can teach us a tremendous amount about the past history as well as the people who said these words. They can educate us about pivotal moments, triumphs, failures, challenges and accomplishments a nation has experienced during different eras. The history of the United States has been characterized by many speeches which have precipitated changes and impacted the way Americans interact with their leaders, neighbors and the rest of the world. Americans in every century have lent their ears to impassioned voices that have stirred, challenged, convicted and profoundly affected the conscience of our nation. These speeches have shaped American history with bold ideas, designed to persuade and influence discourse during difficult and prosperous times – creating a better nation for all Americans.

Class Approach:

Students will identify and analyze historic speeches from American History that have guided the development of our nation. These speeches have inspired, persuaded, informed and tugged at the minds and hearts of those who heard them.

Each week students will be assigned one or two historical speeches to analyze via video, audio or text. A one-page analysis worksheet with guided questions will be given for each speech. Questions and answers will be discussed in class. Examples of questions could include but are not limited to...

What is the occasion for this speech?

What does the speech tell us about life in the United States at the time it was written?

A primary objective will be to learn what the speech teaches us about American history. We will also focus on the relevance and impact of each speech on contemporary America. Finally, each student will be asked to write their own “historic speech” on a topic that is currently making history in the United States. These speeches will be recorded via Smartphone or Tablet and presented during class.

Textbooks:

None. All materials will be provided by the instructor.

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

- Access to a computer
- Internet Access
- At times, instructor will share an article or video to be viewed in preparation for class

Requirements:

Respect for the instructor. Respect for other students. Respect for opinions. Respect. Respect. Respect.

Weekly Homework:

Less than two hours a week.

Homework Policy:

It is expected that you stay up-to-date with your work.

Additional Policies:

I expect students to be participatory and voice their opinions, while being respectful of others and allowing for dissenting views to be heard.

Honesty. Integrity. Respect. Hard work. Enough said?

Grading Scale:

Exceeds Expectations
Meets Expectations
Not Yet
Incomplete

NOTE: If you would like a traditional letter grade, please notify the instructor before class three.

Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Week	Topic
Week 1	What makes a good speech? Provide several details. Go over the final project.
Week 2	Patrick Henry: "Give me Liberty or Give me Death"
Week 3	Frederick Douglass: "What to the American Slave is your Fourth of July?"
Week 4	President Abraham Lincoln: "The Gettysburg Address"
Week 5	Susan B. Anthony: "On Women's Right to Vote" and/or "Are Women Persons?"
Week 6	President Franklin Delano Roosevelt: "First Inaugural Address"
Week 7	Lou Gehrig: "Farewell to Baseball"
Week 8	Martin Luther King: "I Have a Dream"
Week 9	President Ronald Reagan: "Normandy: 40 th Anniversary of D-Day" and/or "Brandenburg Gate"
Week 10	Presentations of Student Speeches

Class Wrap Up
