Persuasive Position Presentation and Rebuttal

Students will brainstorm topics in class. From those topics students will be randomly assigned a topic and a side. Students will then prepare a 3 to 4 minute presentation. The presentation is a persuasive speech similar to the format utilized in public speaking classes – however this speech will take a “position” changing the dynamic to a policy position which is more along the lines of debate. More information regarding the format will be explained in class. Presentations should have two solid claims to support the proposition. Each claim should have grounds from a minimum of 2 qualified academic researched sources. (Total academic sources = 4 required – but students should try to have 6 academic sources to secure a better grade).

Students must submit a persuasive position brief on Canvas. Dates are listed in Canvas. Students must use the template provided on the classroom webpage. Each presentation should have a minimum of 4 academic sources but can also have additional non-academic research. Non-academic sources will not count for grading purposes. Students are highly encouraged to have 6 sources. Keep in mind you must be able to defend your proposition and your sources.

Speeches should be dynamically and extemporaneously delivered without a script (note cards are ok). Students can refer to their brief during the rebuttal but NOT during their speech. Visuals are not allowed. Students should practice to insure that they can convey their information in the time allotted.

This speech is a signature assignment. Students who do not give this presentation will not be allowed to take the final exam, or earn extra credit. This opening assignment will set the stage for the level expected in this course.

Presentation requires

✓ 3-4 minute presentation (timing will be enforced)
✓ Extemporaneously given
✓ 2 solid claims with grounds to support each one
✓ Brief – submitted on Canvas – which will utilize Turn it in – score must not exceed 35% match
✓ 4 academic sources (HINT: if you want a B or an A as your grade, you need 6)
✓ Student should be prepared to speak with key word notes NOT the full brief
✓ Students will then respond to two rebuttals from the audience (Brief can be used during this portion of the assignment if needed) Grade also reflects your ability to defend your position.

Rebuttal Portion

Students will be preassigned two speakers. Students will carefully listen to the presentation, proposition, grounds, and sources provided then craft questions that will rebut the position presented. Grading for this portion is based on student ability to consider alternatives to the position presented and to point it out as a question for the speaker and for the audience to consider. Personal preference for a “side” is irrelevant. Students rebutting are automatically on the opposing side of the presentation. Rebuttals will be randomly assigned and a schedule posted.

Keep in mind that the Rebuttal Portion is a separate graded assignment and should be treated seriously. Students who say, “I can’t think of anything” will be graded accordingly.