

STEPS AND GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH

You may either do one speech at a time, or do each step for all three speeches before moving onto the next step. Do not divide up the questions as a group. Each person needs to contribute on every speech question or it will really backfire.

1. **Understand your question.** What things/people will you need to research? Make a list of people and topics that you will address in order to better understand the heart of each question. Define key words within each speech question. Develop a basic understanding of the question.
2. Create a **preliminary argument** or answer to the “heart” of your question. Write each argument (thesis) for each question as a group.
3. Go back to the **research**. Strengthen your argument with loads of details, examples, quotes, biographies, analyses, and support. Pile it on! Go beyond the obvious. Go beyond your We The People textbook. Get opposing arguments. Study every angle.
4. Create an **outline** of your speech as a group. Be sure to develop a concise argument or thesis that answers the heart of the speech question.
5. **Divide** up the outline as to who will speak when, and for how long on each area. (4 min. total)
6. Each person use the group’s research to **write** their part of the speech. Be sure to still use each other for pointers on how to phrase something or what a good transition might be. Time it to the exact second! (4 min. total)
7. Put your speech together and **type it up** for the teacher to review. Make sure you put nice transitions between different speakers within your speech. It should be a little over one page double-spaced typed to be about the right time.
8. Present your speech as a group.
9. Create a list of questions on cue cards that you would expect judges to ask you in a round. At least 30 questions for each speech. Each person needs to write their own response.
10. Quiz each other using your cards and questions.
11. Practice, research more, practice, research more, practice, research more....**BECOME THE EXPERTS IN YOUR FIELD!** The majority of your time should be spent practicing follow-up questions and continued research. Do not continue to work on the speech once it is complete.