Persuasive Speeches – Was the French Revolution Success or a Failure?

Recently we have learned about the causes that sparked revolution in France in 1789 as well as the turmoil that followed. Despite democratic ideals, the revolution sparked a bloody “reign of terror” and eventually allowed a military dictator to assume control of France. For this speech project, consider the beginning of the French Revolution to be the “Tennis Court Oath” at the meeting of the Estates General in 1789 and the end of the revolution as the final defeat of Napoleon in 1815. Clearly, there were many ups and downs during the more than 25 years of turmoil in France…was it all worth it?

Was the French Revolution a success or a failure?

(Were the people of France better off than they had been under absolute monarchy and what can be learned from the French Revolution?)

Answering these questions thoughtfully is the goal of this speech project.

Guidelines

1) Review your French Revolution timeline notes, HW #6 & #7 and Napoleon slideshow notes for help to brainstorm ideas that could be used to argue your assigned roles point of view in the debate. Brainstorm on the back of this sheet.

2) Write a speech that is about one page long (double spaced) that
   - Clearly identifies your point of view on the successes or failures of the revolution (FOCUS)
   - Includes specific people, ideas and events that support your assigned point of view (EVIDENCE)
   - Blends in original arguments that would convince a neutral person (PERSUASIVENESS)

3) Assume your audience is moderate (not extreme right or left wing). See rubric below for how you will be assessed.

4) Share the speech you create as a google doc with mkelemen@redwood.org by the end of the day Thursday 10/29.

French Revolution Success or a Failure? Persuasive Speeches — Grading Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 points per category</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus of Speech</td>
<td>Clear and consistent focus on the assigned POV.</td>
<td>Mentions focus at start but may lose connection to assigned POV.</td>
<td>Superficially or indirectly addresses the assigned POV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence in Speech</td>
<td>Abundant specific details relating to many aspects of assigned POV.</td>
<td>Some valid details with some links to assigned POV.</td>
<td>Limited, superficial details OR details not clearly linked to POV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persuasiveness of Speech</td>
<td>Multiple explanations connecting the relevance of facts to proving POV. Original and convincing language throughout.</td>
<td>Some original comments made linking significance of some details to assigned POV. Mostly original voice.</td>
<td>Limited commentary as to why facts presented support assigned POV. Little original voice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Participation</td>
<td>Multiple thoughtful verbal comments and consistent active listening.</td>
<td>A few thoughtful verbal comments and usually attentive.</td>
<td>Attentive, but little or no verbal participation OR often not attentive when not speaking.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL GRADE: ___/20
BRAINSTORM IDEAS AND EVIDENCE HERE TO SUPPORT YOUR ASSIGNED POV:

SUCCESS                           FAILURE

Consider the following when brainstorming your arguments. You don't have to address all of these points, they are just to get you thinking about how the French Revolution may be considered either a success or a failure.

- What were the original goals of the revolution and how were they or weren’t they fulfilled?
- How did the revolution improve or not improve average people’s lives?
- What rights were gained or lost during the revolution?
- How was Robespierre a hero for France? How was he a villain?
- How was Napoleon a hero for France? How was he a villain?
- Was the violence of the revolution justified given the outcomes?

BRAINSTORM NOTES: