

Speech Writer: Meaning of a Democracy

Adventure Description:

In this adventure, you will think like speech writer and write a speech for a person who wants to be elected as a leader of our community, state, or country!

Activity

Teacher note: Students will be writing a speech in this activity. You can have students work individually, in pairs, or as a class to write a speech. If students are not fluent writers, they can dictate their speech and you can write it on the board.

Step 1: Background on Speech Writers and a Democracy (10 minutes)

- Show [Video: Meaning of a Democracy](#).
- As a class, discuss how a speech writer writes a speech for another person. Some speech writers write speeches for candidates who want to be leaders in our country. For example, a candidate might want to become the next president of our country, mayor of a town, or senator.
- Explain that candidates say speeches out loud so that people can listen to their opinions and learn about what they would do as a leader. Show [Handout: Examples of Speeches](#). Discuss how candidates can talk in front of small or large crowds. They want these people to listen to their speech and then decide to vote for them!
- Next, discuss how the United States has a type of government called a democracy. In a democracy, people get to vote for their leaders. Show [Handout: Democracy](#). If time permits, discuss how our country could be different if we didn't live in a democracy.
- Because people vote for their leaders, candidates want to make sure that they have the best speeches to say. That way, they can convince people to vote for them when they speak. That is why candidates hire speech writers! They want help to write the best speech possible.

Step 2: Choosing a Candidate (5 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will be writing a speech for a candidate who wants to be elected to be a mayor. A mayor is a leader in a town or community.
- Teacher note: Explain to students if they will be writing a speech by themselves or if the whole class will be writing a speech together.
- Provide students with [Handout: Steps to Write a Speech](#).
- As a class, review Step 1. Have students or the class select which candidate they want to write their speech for.

Please contact Allison Bischoff, Director of Customer Service, at allison@rozzylearningcompany.com or 314-272-2560 with questions.

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Step 3: Writing an Introduction (5-10 minutes)

- As a class, review Step 2. Explain to students that they will write the first thing that the candidate will say. This is called the introduction. It is important that the introduction be interesting so people will want to keep listening to the speech!
- As a class, discuss which introduction listed under Step 2 would be the better introduction. Discuss reasons it would be better.
- Then, have students or the class write their introduction at the bottom of the page on a large sheet of paper.

Step 4: Writing Reasons to Vote for Candidate (5-10 minutes)

- As a class, review Step 3. As a class, discuss which reasons listed under Step 3 would be the best reasons to include in a speech.
- Discuss how speech writers should include specific reasons that explain why someone would be a good leader.
- Then, have students or the class write their own 2 reasons at the bottom of the page or on a large sheet of paper about why someone should vote for their candidate.

Step 5: Writing a Closing (5-10 minutes)

- As a class, review Step 4. Explain to students that they will write a closing, which is the last thing that a candidate will say. The closing should tell people to vote for the candidate!
- As a class, discuss which conclusion listed under Step 4 would be the best. Discuss how a strong conclusion reminds people about why the candidate will be a great leader. It is also professional.
- Have students or the class write their closing at the bottom of the page or on a large sheet of paper.

Step 6: (Optional or homework) Making Accessories for the Candidate (10 minutes)

- Show [Handout: Making Accessories](#).
- Explain to students that they will help make accessories that a candidate will wear during a speech! The speech writer works with a team of people to help make sure the candidate is ready to give a speech!
- Have students decide which accessories they want to make. Then, have them use art supplies and building materials to create a pin, flag, or other accessory that the candidate can use during the speech!
- Provide students with the following materials: construction paper, scissors, tape, pop pom balls, markers, and any other art supplies you would like to provide.
- Idea for differentiation for advanced students: discuss how candidates often have a slogan. A slogan is a sentence that candidates can be remembered for. Discuss how slogans are often on accessories that candidates wear during their campaign.

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Materials List

Provided online:

- Video: Meaning of a Democracy
- Handout: Examples of Speeches
- Handout: Democracy
- Handout: Steps to Write a Speech
- Handout: Making Accessories

Not Provided online (each student or group needs):

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Pom Pom Balls or other art supplies (optional)

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