**Speech & Debate I**

**Unit 1 Speech Assignment: Declamation**

A “declamation” is a pre-prepared speech that serves as a rhetorical exercise. It is an opportunity to perfect one’s speaking skills while using a speech selected by the speaker as a matter of significance.

In choosing a speech for declamation, you should choose a speech that sends a message or communicates information that you are passionate about.

Parameters

Your selection for declamation must be a speech that has been previously delivered or published. You will not perform the entire speech, but will instead “cut” it down to a length of 4:00-5:00 min.

Any speech may be fair game, but keep in mind that the bet speeches will have some sort of significance – some sort of a point or message. For this reason, the following options may work better as sources for a declamation:

* TED x Talks
* Graduation Speeches (also called Commencement Addresses)
* Historical Speeches (ex: Gettysburg Address)
* Presidential Speeches (ex: State of the Union; Inauguration Speech)

*These are by no means your only options, but may be a good starting point to help you in your selection.*

Process

After selecting your speech you must cut it down to an appropriate length. For this assignment we will use a time limit of 4:00-5:00 minutes.

The organization of your speech should be logical and meaningful. Remember the components of an effective essay or other piece of writing: is there an introduction to the topic or points? Is there sufficient information or argumentation to support the speech? Is there a smooth and appropriate conclusion to the material? Does it make sense?

In addition, you will be asked to personally introduce the speech in your own words. This short personal introduction **will** contribute to the overall time limit.

Requirements

Your declamation will be evaluated by your peers and by Mr. Harrow. You will be evaluated in 2 areas: on your final speech script, and on your speech performance.

These will count as separate **formal** grades for this Unit.