AP Government

Mrs. Stafstrom

Democratization Presentations

Freedom House, the internationally known nongovernmental organization that monitors democracy world-wide, is gathering data for its annual survey of democracy in the world. As representatives of your states, you have been asked to present information regarding your state to a panel of Freedom House representatives. For a variety of reasons, it is important that you do your best to convince this panel that your state is actually “democratic” or at least on the path towards a stable democracy (democratizing). We will be using an interview format.

The states that have been invited to speak with Freedom House are Russia, China, Iran, Nigeria and Mexico. United Kingdom declined the invitation, claiming they are the epitome of civilized democracy and there is no need for an interview.

Each *state* group is to do the following:

1. Read and understand all the articles the Freedom House representative has given you;
2. Complete the Democracy Matrix sheet – due Wednesday, 2/20; by the end of class, each state should give each of the three Freedom House representatives and Mrs. Stafstrom a copy of their matrix.
3. Develop written arguments as to why your country is either democratic or on the path to democracy
   1. Your arguments can be in outline format. Feel free to use charts and graphs.
   2. As part of this argument, you should acknowledge those aspects of your state that are not democratic and, if possible, discuss how your state is nonetheless moving in a democratic direction.
   3. Remember the precise meaning of the word democracy is subject to debate,
   4. As a guide to what is a democracy, refer to the AP Briefing paper, the Dahl article and to the Freedom House website. Use those criteria as a guide to framing your arguments.
   5. Remember that for the most part the other state representatives don’t know much about your state. Thus a brief introduction to your country would help their understanding; and
4. Make your presentation to the Freedom House representatives in an interview format (you will be interrupted)
   1. 5 – 7 minutes
   2. Be prepared to take questions from the Freedom House representatives
   3. Provide Mrs. Stafstrom a copy of your arguments (nice and typed!!!!)

Each representative of *Freedom House* is to do the following:

1. Become an expert on the status of democracy in each of the 5 countries, though you can divide up the work.
2. Based on your research, your knowledge of what is needed for democracy, and the information the states will provide you on Wednesday, compile a list of questions to ask each state. I will collect these questions on Friday (at least 7 questions each state, for a total of 35).
3. On Friday, conduct an interview with representatives of each state (one at a time). Your job is to assess and evaluate the status of democracy in the state. Given your bias in favor of democracy, you should be aggressive in your interview.

*All:* Expect a written assignment based on the activity.

Media Center Day

Tuesday, 2/18 intro and sign-up

Wednesday, 2/19 country matrix due/ distribute copies

Thursday, 2/20 sub/ nothing due

**Interview Day: Friday, 2/21 ALL DRESS UP**