AP Comparative Government

Mrs. Stafstrom

Democratization Debate

***Resolved: that the world would be a better place if more states had substantive democracy.***

1. Two students will represent each of the six AP countries. Try to represent your country in character. So Mexico will be proud of its movement towards democracy, while illiberal democratic societies will argue they are democratic or that democracy is a western concept not suited to their culture. China might argue that democracy makes for a weak state, ill-suited to address pressing demands to meet the needs of its citizens.
   * Be prepared to answer questions from other panel members (who will represent a range of interests).
   * **complete the democracy matrix for your country – be detailed and current**
2. The five (5) remaining students will be questioners whose role is to reveal the weaknesses and strengths of BOTH sides of the above debate. You are to work as a team to understand the theoretical and practical sides of the debate and to then **create and then ask questions** of the representatives of the six countries. You should divide up the countries after coming to an understanding of what are the issues in the debate

Sources to get your started

<http://www.freedomhouse.org>

The BEST site available to you. Review your country and check out the 2014 Freedom of the World report under recent reports

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/> Indispensible background knowledge

READ the Democracy packet

BBC website

*The Economist* magazine, especially the country issues links. Search for “democracy” as well. Access under

jjstafstrom @gmail.com. PW: bingley They publish articles on democracy as well as country specific reports

<http://democracyranking.org/>

Remember online sources at <http://stafstromdhs.weebly.com/>

Schedule

Tuesday, 3/4 intro and work day

Wed. 3/5 Work day

Thursday, 3/6 – Discuss readings in the Democracy packet

**Debate Day – Friday, 3/7** (Current Events now due moved to Monday 3/10)

Debate Format

(adopted from the Economist online debates)

Mrs. Stafstrom, Moderator

1. **Opening Statements**
   1. a representative of each state will give a opening statement answering the resolution.
   2. about two (2) minutes each so a total of about 12 minutes
   3. all state representatives should be “in character” -- dress up!
   4. create and bring a nameplate. You can use the flags!
2. **Debate on the resolution**
   1. Questioners will ask states questions of the six countries; one follow-up question is allowed - 10 – 20 minutes
   2. The debate will then open up with countries and questioners free to ask each other questions – 15 - 25 minutes
   3. All dressed up
3. **Closing Statements**
   1. take a brief break to allow states to formulate their closing statements - 3 minutes
   2. States give brief closing statements - 6 minutes
4. **Vote**

Students resume their student identities and vote pro or con on the resolution.

**Written Requirements and Due Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| States | Questioners |
| * completed country democracy matrix due on debate day | * Divide up responsibilities by country * Written questions for each of the six countries that address all aspects of democracy (see matrix) * Two questions per aspect |