

Activities for Analyzing and Understanding the Speech – A Conversation with Eleanor Roosevelt

Share with your students the clips and transcripts of the *Conversation With Mrs. Roosevelt* and then ask them to complete the activities below.

ACTIVITY ONE: Views and Values: Comparing and Contrasting Hers and Yours

Mrs. Roosevelt was known for her very strong views and values. Using evidence found in the *Conversation With Mrs. Roosevelt* film clip, fill in the chart below. Then consider your own views and values regarding the topics. In what ways do you and Mrs. Roosevelt agree? In what ways do you and Mrs. Roosevelt disagree? Why?

Topic	Her View and Values	Your Views and Values
Our obligation to the poor		
Women's suffrage		
Criticism		
FDR's greatest accomplishment		
FDR's greatest mistake		
Communism		
Atomic weapons		
Materialism		
Emerging leaders		
Freedom		
Responsibilities of young people		

ACTIVITY TWO: United Nations Limitations

Mrs. Roosevelt remarks that critics and those disappointed with the United Nations may have expected too much from the international organization.

- 1) What evidence or examples does Mrs. Roosevelt use to address this concern?
- 2) Why is the United Nations important?
- 3) In what ways has the United Nations been effective?
- 4) In what ways has the United Nations been ineffective?
- 5) In your opinion, what should the role of the United Nations be?

ACTIVITY THREE: Obligations to the Future

Mrs. Roosevelt believed that we each have an obligation to promote peace and to be actively involved in our communities. This, she thought, was especially true of young people. Using Mrs. Roosevelt's remarks as an example fill in the chart below.

I can promote peace by:
1)
2)
3)

I can become more actively involved in my community by:
1)
2)
3)

ACTIVITY FOUR: Eleanor Roosevelt in Your Own Words

Below are a number of ideas and concepts Mrs. Roosevelt introduces in the *Conversation With Mrs. Roosevelt* film clip. Using your own words describe what you think each of these ideas and concepts means for us today.

Mrs. Roosevelt's idea or concept	What it means for us today
'We must practice noblesse oblige...'	
'We must promote peace...'	
'We are too proud of our progress...'	
'We must be free thinkers...'	
'We ought to be able to change our minds...'	
'We must solve our problems in the context of world problems...'	
'We put too much focus on material benefits...'	
'We must have vigor of mind...'	

In your opinion, how well do Mrs. Roosevelt's ideas and concepts fit with our times? Use plenty of examples to defend your views.

