

Activities for Analyzing and Understanding the Speech – Eleanor Roosevelt on Human Rights

Distribute the transcript of Mrs. Roosevelt’s address and ask your students to review the speech. You may want to have the class do ‘share reading’ or to work in groups on these activities.

ACTIVITY ONE: Identifying Major Themes and Supporting Evidence

- 1) Identify three major themes Mrs. Roosevelt puts forth in her speech.
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
- 2) What evidence does Mrs. Roosevelt present to support these themes?
- 3) What is Mrs. Roosevelt’s main reason for giving this address?
- 4) Why is Mrs. Roosevelt qualified to speak about this issue?

ACTIVITY TWO: Recording Your Reaction to the Speech

- 1) Having read or heard the remarks by Mrs. Roosevelt; what do you think is the most thought provoking part of the speech? Why?

- 2) What emotions does the speech stir in you? Why is that the case?

- 3) Compare your reaction with that of your classmates.
 - a) Where do your views and reactions overlap?
 - b) Where do they differ?
 - c) What do you suppose accounts for the difference?

ACTIVITY THREE: Identifying and Understanding Key Points

Restate each of the key points Mrs. Roosevelt makes below in your own words.

Key Point:

In Your Own Words:

<i>"...the fact that the building of human rights would be one of the foundation stones on which we would build in the world an atmosphere in which peace can grow."</i>	
<i>"...we come to the celebration for human rights we try to particularly have people study the declaration so that they will really understand what were considered to be the most essential rights for all people to have throughout the world."</i>	
<i>"...we feel that these rights should sometimes be actually written into the laws of countries throughout the world, and that can be done and by the adoption of covenants and the changing of laws to meet whatever a country has accepted in a covenant..."</i>	
<i>"We must want our fellow human beings to have rights and freedoms which give them dignity and which will give them a sense that they are human beings that can walk the earth with their heads high and look all men in the face."</i>	
<i>"If we observe these rights, for ourselves and for others, I think we will find it is easier in the world to build peace because war destroys all human rights and freedoms, so in fighting for those we fight for peace."</i>	
Using less than 25 of your own words summarize the speech:	

ACTIVITY FOUR: Observing United Nations Day or Week

- 1) When is United Nations Day?

- 2) What activities could your class or school create, or participate in, that would raise awareness of the functions and operations of the United Nations?

- 3) Prepare a list of 3-4 questions you would ask if a United Nations official came to your school.
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)

Where might you find the answers to your questions?