**American Literature:**

**Persuasive Speech Assignment**

In a 3-5 minute *prepared and practiced* speech, you must attempt to convince your audience. You will pick the audience for your speech (for instance, if you are declaring independence from your family, your parents would be the audience. However, if you are declaring independence from the school, you would focus on the school board, the administration, or even your peers as the audience) and tailor your arguments to that audience. You must use a combination in your speech of ethos, pathos, and logos and an additional 4-5 rhetorical devices to persuade.

**Requirements:**

* 3-5 minute prepared and practiced speech (approx. 1.5 pages, MLA format, turned in to turnitin.com /written copy to me) with proper grammar/conventions
* Effective approach to and consideration of audience
* Use of ethos, pathos, and logos
* 4-5 additional rhetorical devices
* Avoid fallacies
* Proper speech mechanics/presentation skills
* When you present your speech, you will be required to turn in a paragraph (typed) that explains your use of rhetorical devices (which ones you used, how you used them, and why you used those particular devices) as well as an explanation of how you address your audience in your speech (who is your audience, how did you change your speech to meet the audience’s requirements, etc.)

**Speech Topics: You may choose one from the list below, or you may choose your own with approval from me…nothing too controversial.**

* Android/Apple is best cell phone\*
* Dependence on technology is making humanity less intelligent
* Death penalty should be illegal
* Abraham Lincoln was the best president
* School days should start later
* Should people have to get a license to become parents?
* Should talking on a phone without a hands-free device while driving be illegal?
* Is Global Warming real?
* You are running for President
* Equal rights for men and women
* The war on drugs is a failure
* Do you believe there should be stricter federal restrictions regarding content on the internet?
* Violent video games cause or don’t cause violence\*
* You are declaring independence from your family or from your school\*
* Football or soccer is too dangerous or safe\*
* Cell phones improve or hinder relationships\*
* Or check the website 434 Good Persuasive Topics For Speech or Essay

\*Indicates you choose one or the other to persuade