Worksheet #3: Persuasive Speech

Directions: Working on your own or in pairs, use one of the ideas in the Gettysburg Address to create a persuasive speech. The speech should be modeled on the concise presentation of ideas found in Lincoln’s speech.

Lincoln stressed:
1. The enduring quality of our nation;
2. The idea that in the U.S. “All men are created equal”;
3. Bravery and sacrifice will be remembered forever;
4. “That this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom”; and
5. “Government of the people by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.”

What can you say about any one of these ideas? Here is how to plan your speech:
• Pick one or two of these ideas as the basis of your speech;
• Do some pre-writing (brainstorming and creating web/clusters) to work with your ideas before you commit those thoughts to writing in the actual speech;
• Write a persuasive speech the approximate length of the Gettysburg address (272 words); and
• Rehearse the speech with a partner, and then deliver it to the class.

Brainstorm together as a class to generate relevant 21st-century events. Use one of these suggestions or another one as the central event for writing your persuasive speech.

Prewriting:
Use web/clusters as a prewriting exercise to expand upon an idea. Write a word in the center of the circle and on each of the lines radiating from the circle write a supporting detail that adds some information about the word. For example, if “Thanksgiving” were in the circle, then such words as tradition, turkey, family, holiday, etc. would radiate from the circle. Finish these web/clusters from words (ideas) that you have identified in your brainstorming list.

Write the title or topic of your speech here: _________________________________

On the lines below (or on the back of this paper) write words, phrases, or ideas that come into your mind when thinking about the topic of your speech:

Rough Draft:
Now, write your rough draft on the lines below. When you have completed it, share it with a partner for peer editing. Then, write the final draft, rehearse it, and deliver the speech to the class.