

6. With your counselor’s approval, choose a speech of national historical importance. Find out about the author, and tell your counselor about the person who gave the speech. Explain the importance of the speech at the time it was given, and tell how it applies to American citizens today. Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.

Speeches to Consider

Speaker	Circumstance	Date	Quote
Barry Goldwater	Republican Convention igniting the conservative movement	July 16, 1964	“I would remind you that extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice! And let me remind you also that moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue!”
John F. Kennedy	Inaugural address	Jan 20, 1961	“And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.”
Hubert H. Humphrey	Split at Philadelphia Democratic Convention	1948	“There are those who say – this issue of civil rights is an infringement on state’s rights. The time has arrived for the Democratic party to get out of the shadow of states’ rights and walk forthrightly into the bright sunshine of human rights.”
Margaret Chase Smith	Declaration of conscience against Senator Joe McCarthy	June 1, 1950	“I do not want to see the Republican party ride to political victory on the Four Horsemen of Calumny – fear, ignorance, bigotry, and smear.”
Sojourner Truth	Former slave advocates for women’s rights	1851	“And ain’t I a woman? Look at me!”
Martin Luther King	Lincoln Memorial: I have a Dream	August 23, 1963	“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”
John F. Kennedy	Berlin	June 26, 1963	“Ich bin ein Berliner”
Lyndon Johnson	Halt to the Bombing in Vietnam and	1968	“I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your

	will not seek re-election		president.”
Robert F. Kennedy	After the assassination of Martin Luther King	April 4, 1968	“Let us dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago: to tame the savageness of man and to make gentle the life of this world.”
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Asks Congress for Declaration of War Against Japan	December 8, 1941	“Yesterday, December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the empire of Japan.”
Patrick Henry	Richmond, VA	Mrch 23, 1775	“If life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!”
Douglas MacArthur	West Point	May 12, 1962	“‘Duty’, ‘Honor’, ‘Country’ – those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you want to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point.”
Adlai Stevenson	Nature of Patriotism	1952	“Men who have offered their lives for their country know that patriotism is not the fear of something; it is the love of something.”
Abraham Lincoln	Gettysburg Address	November 19, 1863	“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” “. . . government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”
George W. Bush	Address to Congress after 9/11	September 20, 2001	“Whether we bring our enemies to justice, or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done.”
Ronald Reagan	Brandenburg Gate, Berlin	June 12, 1987	“Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”
Ronald Reagan	40 th Ann. of	June 6, 1984	“. . . there is a profound moral

	D-Day Pont du Hoc, France		difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest.”
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Address to the DAR	April 1, 1938	“ . . . remember always that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists.”
Lou Gehrig	Farewell to Baseball	July 4, 1939	“ . . . I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth.”
Harold Ickes	What Constitutes an American	May 18, 1941	“We cannot retain our liberty if three-fourths of the world is enslaved.”
Learned Hand	‘I Am an American Day’	May 21, 1944	“Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women. When it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it.”
Harry Truman	Campaign Speech	October 7, 1948	“ . . . this ‘do-nothing’ Congress.”
Dwight D. Eisenhower	Sending federal troops to integrate schools in Little Rock, AR	September 24, 1957	“A foundation of our American way of life is our national respect for law.”
John F. Kennedy	Cuban Missile Crisis	October 22, 1962	“ . . . missiles in Cuba add to an already clear and present danger. . . “
Henry Cabot Lodge	Opposing America joining the League of Nations	August 12, 1919	“ . . . there is grave danger in unshared idealism.”
Barbara Jordan	Nixon’s impeachment hearings	July 25, 1974	“My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total.”
Senator “Scoop” Jackson	Address on terrorism in Jerusalem	July 1979	“I believe that international terrorism is a modern form of warfare against liberal democracies.”
Ronald Reagan	The Evil Empire	March 8, 1983	“ . . . I urge you to beware the temptation . . . to ignore the facts of history and the aggressive impulses of an evil empire. . . “
Ronald Reagan	Challenger Disaster	January 28, 1986	“We’ve grown used to wonders in this century. . . We’re still pioneers.”

William Bennett	Heritage Foundation Speech on virtue	December 7, 1993	“Something has gone wrong with us.”
Senator Joseph McCarthy	Communists in Government Service	February 20, 1950	“I have in my possession the names of 57 Communists who are in the State Department at present. . . “
Woodrow Wilson	Speech to the Senate	January 22, 1917	“. . . it must be a peace without victory.”
Theodore Roosevelt	A Square Deal	September 7, 1903	“. . . we can make and keep our social system what it should be, only on condition of judging each man, not as a member of a class, but on his worth as a man.”
Thomas Jefferson	First Inaugural	1801	“...though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will, to be rightful, must be reasonable.”
Abraham Lincoln	Republican State Convention	June 17, 1858	“A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free.”
Teddy Roosevelt	Speech in Kansas on the New Nationalism	August 31, 1910	“I stand for the square deal.”
Lyndon Johnson	Message to Congress on civil rights	Summer 1965	“. . . it is not just Negroes, but really it is all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice. And we shall overcome.”
George Washington	Farewell Address	1796	“. . . foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government.”
Franklin Roosevelt	Address at Charlottesville after Italy had declared war on France	1940	“. . . we will extend to the opponents of force the material resources of this nation.”
James Monroe	Message to Congress, The Monroe Doctrine	December 2, 1823	“It is impossible that the allied powers should extend their political system to any portion of either continent without endangering our peace and

			happiness.”
Secretary of State George Marshall	Harvard University, The Marshall Plan	1947	“It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace.”
John F. Kennedy	Address to Southern Baptist Leaders	September 12, 1960	“I believe in an America that is officially neither Catholic, Protestant nor Jewish. . . “