



'Now and Then' Speeches of National Leaders

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Social Studies
Grades 9–12



Introduction

Students will examine and analyze classic speeches from past and present national leaders. Students will review a current event and determine how the two speeches relate to the current event by comparing and contrasting.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Compare the point of view of two or more authors for how they treat the same or similar topics, including which details they include and emphasize in their respective accounts. ([CCSS - R.H. 9-10.6](#))

Materials Needed

- Access to computers/laptops
- Wi-Fi and presentation software or websites
- Venn Diagram or Triple Venn Diagram
- Video link of: [Barack Obama's Change Speech](#)
- Video link of: [MLK's I Have a Dream Speech](#)

Procedure

1. Prior to the lesson it will be important to decide on the current event(s) that will serve as a relevant point of reference for the lesson. This could be a number of topics (crime in America, judicial injustice, democratic participation, etc.).
2. Do a quick mini-lesson or overview regarding the current event(s) of your choice. This should include showing clips from the news or other sources related to the event. You should also provide an opportunity for students to dialogue about the current event to determine their levels of understanding and any related implications.
3. The students should then view the Obama and MLK speeches. They should be told that they are to listen for similarities between the two speeches and connections to the current event that they were referencing earlier in the lesson. You should allow them to view them individually and either discuss their thoughts with a peer or in small groups.

Continued on page 2



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Continued from page 1

4. After briefly discussing their thoughts with peers, the students should work together in small groups to complete a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the two speeches or a Triple Venn Diagram that compares the current event and the two speeches (if applicable).
5. The students should prepare a presentation (group or individual) to illustrate and articulate their understanding of how the two speeches compare to one another and how they compare to the current event (if applicable).

Evaluation

A rubric should be created to evaluate the presentations that the students create and present in this lesson. It is advised to review this rubric with the students prior to starting the work on the presentation.