

CARPE DIEM: SEIZE THE MOMENT – NOW!

Intro: << This is the moment | This is your chance | Seize this opportunity.

I want you to look back at this junction in our class at the end of the term without any regrets. At the end of the term I want you to be able to say: I gave it my **best shot**.

Now that I have your attention, allow me to paint the picture:

I am **not** going to dictate | I am **not** going to impose | I am **not** going to insist what it is that you are going to debate in our class. That is entirely up to you.

Your first shot at influencing the debate is by picking a topic. Any policy based, current-event topic of your choice. One that you care about. One that would make you want to do research.

Next – you are going to make sure that your peers and future team-mates, care about it. That's where you really **seizes** the moment. Just think about the credibility you establish by winning their votes.

I expect that you give them all the angles on your proposed topic. The pro's, the con's, even the neutral positions. Yes, that's right you are holding an informative speech as a midterm speech. An informative-speech, were you provide a balanced approach. You are previewing the potential of a debate on this cool, interesting, and timely topic. You know, kind of like the Cross Fire Speeches, only that you are playing both sides.

BUT WAIT, Martin, how is this persuasive? Isn't my Midterm speech supposed to be persuasive?

YES, A-B-S-O-L-U-T-E-L-Y. How is an informative speech a persuasive one. BECAUSE your classmates need to **VOTE** for yours, and they have many choices. You want them to **seek** out yours.

Do you show them what your stance is. HMMM? You want to be an ethical, but you also a really, really good speaker to get them interested. You can go all out, and provide a come and get me challenge on your topic. You can also play devils advocate and hide your true feelings. Keep in mind if you are to powerful, or one-sided, why would they want to argue it. How do you get them to vote on it - well – that's up to you. Show them that this is the topic to pick.

BUT, what if they just vote for their own?

THAT's not possible. Because only 50% of the class is presenting on day one. That means half of them can't vote for their own. Additionally they are actually going to vote for their top 3 choices. So every vote counts!

So, lets recap, you get to pick the topic, and you get to vote for the topic. So really how can you claim that this is not what you want. UNLESS of course you did not take advantage of what I already told you:

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- CONCLUDES BROADCAST -

Not in the broadcast: I look forward to meeting with you and seeing what you will propose, to avoid duplicate topic choices and appropriate subject matters. Have fun!