**SPOKEN WORD: “The Time is Now #electtospeak”**

**MARCH 11th 2017**

**INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA**

1. **General Information:**

* This event is for 8-12th graders.
* Each school may send **3 students per category**
* Each team event can include up to **4 students**. There can be **2 teams** per school.
* There will be four categories:
  + **Free Form Spoken Word-** Students prepare an original work based on the theme “The Time is Now #electospeak” Most of our students are not yet of voting age, but many of them will be effected by decisions made by our government. Students should be inspired to speak to leaders in our government **Maximum time: 3 minutes.**
  + **Recited Spoken Word**- Students choose a published work (which they cite) they recite based on the theme “The Time is Now #electtospeak.” Ideas: Famous speeches made at political rallies, by presidents, protestors or others that reflect the what the students what our government to know or to change. **Maximum time: 3 minutes.**
  + **Persuasive Speech**-Students will be given a persuasive topic based on the theme, “The Time is Now #electtospeak”. Students write a speech and then present in front of audience and judges. Please see the attached document for their themes. **Time limits: 2-4 minutes.**
  + **Team Event**-Students prepare an original work and present together a unified message on the theme “The Time is Now #electtospeak.” **Maximum time *for each participant*: 2 minutes.** For example, a team of three people may have up to 6 minutes.
  + First, Second, and third place will be awarded for each category.
  + No props or music are allowed. Participants present in front of judges and a live audience, and memorization is optional, though encouraged.

1. **Submitting:** 
   * You must submit the names of your students and a copy of their piece to [brooks@conceptschools.org](mailto:brooks@conceptschools.org) no later than **February 24, 2017**. A list of participants will be announced once entries have been reviewed.
   * Student names may not be changed after the deadline for submission.
   * Rubrics (Free form and recited share rubric, persuasive and team will have their own rubrics) are attached.

* + There will be a **$100 fee per school** to cover event costs.

1. **Ways to prepare in school:**
   * Consider the following extra-curricular suggestions:
     + Show students the video or highlights from last year’s Spoken Word.
     + Form an after school Spoken Word club.
     + Hold regular meeting times, once a week or twice a month, etc.
     + Watch Spoken Word and Persuasive Speakers and teach students how to evaluate good performances.
     + Have students write and perform for extended periods of time.
     + Hold your own local school competitions.
     + Connect to your English classrooms during units on persuasive/argument writing and poetry.
   * Obtain additional resources through your Instructional Coordinators:
     + <http://www.louderthanabombfilm.com/>
     + <http://www.saywhatonline.org/>
     + <http://www.amazon.com/Spoken-Word-Revolution-PB-Audio/dp/1402202466>
   * Idea Banks for School Programs and Classroom Instruction:
     + Involve all students, not just poets – create a newsroom atmosphere, perhaps one day a week, where students take photographs and write stories about poets, teams, or the value of poems to make meaning in our lives.
     + Create a connection between spoken word and popular social media site and music videos, etc. to encourage students to compare the similarities and differences.
     + Create an on-going event environment in the school to show this as a viable entertainment event just as sports and music already are.

One teacher’s example of how to lay out lesson plans can be found at:

<http://marshawaldman.com/MarshaWaldman.com/English_files/SpokenWrod_lesson_plan.pdf>