Activities for Analyzing and Understanding the Speech – Show the World What Democracy Means

Activity One: Identifying Major Themes and Supporting Evidence

1)	Identify three or four major themes Mrs. Roosevelt cites in her speech to the democratic delegates.
	a)
	b)
	c)
	d)
2)	What evidence does Mrs. Roosevelt present to support these themes?
3)	What is Mrs. Roosevelt's main reason for addressing the convention?

Activity Two: Victory and Beyond

1)	Mrs. Roosevelt warns the delegates that winning a victory in an election is important, but it is not enough. What does she suggest must occur once the victory has been secured?			
2)	Mrs. Roosevelt gives the delegates a lesson on the importance of leadership. What does she say leaders need in order to be "great?"			
3)	She also says it is not enough to have great leaders, and great people, there must also be great objectives. Describe how these three ingredients work in tandem with each other.			
4)	While recognizing that she is a vaulted member of the party, Mrs. Roosevelt asserts that each member of the party has important roles to play.			
	a) What role does Mrs. Roosevelt say each member of the party must play?			
	b) Where does she say this work must be done?			
	c) Why is it important that the role be played out there?			

Activity Three: Sizing Up a Political Party by Examining the Record

Despite George Washington's warning to avoid the creation of partisan politics, political parties soon developed in the United States. By about the time of the Civil War the Democratic and Republican parties had emerged to dominate the political landscape.

Making good choices about who we elect depends on having good information about the candidates, and the issues, we are presented with. Traditionally this information was organized and provided by the party. Though you may be too young to actually cast a vote, you are not too young to begin "examining the record" of the two major political parties in the United States and to think about where you might fit.

Think about how you feel concerning each of the issues below and fill in the first column in the chart. Now do a little research and identify where each of the major political parties stand on each of the issues. There are three spaces for additional issues that might be important to you.

Which party do you most closely identify with? Is that who you would support in future elections?

Topic or Issue	Your Views on the Topic	Republican Party Views	Democratic Party Views
Crime			
Education			
Government Spending			
Gun Violence			
Immigration			
Taxes			
Trade			
The Environment			

Activity Four: Democracy vs Communism

In her speech to the delegates Mrs. Roosevelt is essentially laying out an argument for democracy, and against communism.

- a) What does Mrs. Roosevelt starkly describe as the difference between democracy and communism?
- b) What does Mrs. Roosevelt see as the key objective of government? From which of our nation's founding documents does she draw this idea?
- c) How does Mrs. Roosevelt suggest that we show the rest of the world that democracy is the better choice?
- d) Mrs. Roosevelt is essentially suggesting that we follow a policy of winning over "the hearts and minds" of the rest of the world. What does this mean? Why do you suppose she thinks this is the 'best argument against communism?'