

Bush promises the world Freedom (Saturday, January 22, 2005)

CHAT: Talk about President George W. Bush / Freedom / the United States of America / tyranny and terror / democracy / respect for other cultures / ...

PRESIDENT BUSH BRAINSTORM: Get a pen or pencil – now. Write down the first word that enters your head when you read the following: ‘President George W. Bush’. Tell other students what you wrote and why.

MY COUNTRY: Talk about the similarities and differences between the USA and your own country, and how George W. Bush is viewed in your country. Follow up with another chat about what role America has played in the history of your country.

2-MINUTE DEBATES: Face your partner(s) and engage in the following (**for-fun**) 2-minute debates. Change partners frequently:

- (a) The world is lucky to have George W. Bush as US president.
- (b) The War on Terror will be won.
- (c) The Republican party will also win the next American election.
- (d) The United States of America is the greatest model of freedom in the world.
- (e) Peace will come to Afghanistan and Iraq.
- (f) Iran and North Korea will listen to president Bush and end their nuclear weapons programmes.
- (g) Britain will follow Europe more, instead of following America.
- (h) President Bush will finally bring peace and freedom to the Middle East.
- (i) The world is a safer place today than before Mr. Bush became president.
- (j) President Bush should receive a Nobel Peace Prize.
- (j) Other teacher / student created mini-debates – dependent on cultures of students.

PRE-READING

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries, or type the words into a search engine field such as Google, to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words ‘promise’, and ‘freedom’.

TRUE / FALSE: Predict from the headline whether these statements are true or false:

- (a) This is President Bush's third inauguration. T / F
- (b) President Bush said freedom is the only way to stop another 9-11. T / F
- (c) President Bush said resentment and tyranny are the only ways to bring world freedom. T / F
- (d) President Bush stated democracy must be spread around America. T / F
- (e) President Bush wants to see the growth of American-style democracy in every nation and culture. T / F
- (f) He said that however culturally different a nation is, America will respect its people and customs. T / F
- (g) President Bush said he has already achieved the greatest achievements in the history of freedom. T / F
- (h) President Bush ended his speech asking God to bless and watch over the world. T / F

DEFINITIONS: Match the following words with the **most likely** definitions (Please think about the headline!):

- (i) tyranny (n) (a) the goal of a nation to make all of its citizens healthy and wealthy
(b) absolute, total power, especially when exercised unjustly or cruelly
- (ii) freedom (n) (a) when a department store has a sale and greatly reduces its prices
(b) liberty of a person from slavery, detention, or oppression, the ability to exercise choice
- (iii) vulnerability (n) (a) susceptible to physical or emotional injury or attack
(b) extremely harmful; devastating; capable of causing death
- (iv) resentment (n) (a) the act of receiving something in return for a kind act
(b) a feeling of deep and bitter anger and hatred against another person, people or country
- (v) mortal threat (n) (a) a very serious or deadly danger that may come in the near future
(b) the telling of exaggerated lies
- (vi) democracy (n) (a) government by the people, exercised either directly or through fair elections and elected representatives
(b) when the people of a country have only two parties to vote for
- (vii) minorities (n) (a) a group having all of the power or representation relative to other groups within a society
(b) a group having little power or representation relative to other groups within a society
- (viii) respect (n) (a) willingness to show consideration or appreciation to others
(b) an unwillingness to show consideration or appreciation to others
- (ix) voice (n) (a) the right or opportunity to express a choice or opinion
(b) having something placed over one's mouth that prevents someone from speaking
- (x) achievements (n) (a) the aches and pains that cover one's body after excessive amounts of exercise
(b) something accomplished successfully, especially by means of exertion, skill, practice, or perseverance

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| (a) office | weakness |
| (b) tyranny | regard |
| (c) vulnerability | open-minded |
| (d) mortal | rule |
| (e) reign | expression |
| (f) tolerant | position |
| (g) ultimate | greatest |
| (h) respect | lethal |
| (i) voice | evil |
| (j) bless | favor |

GAP-FILL: Put the missing words under each paragraph into the gaps.

Bush promises the world Freedom (Sat 22 Jan) Intermediate +

bNE: President George W. Bush was sworn into office in the inauguration for his second term in office promising to fight _____ and bring _____ around the world, saying that is the only way to prevent other 9-11s from occurring in the United States,

“We have seen our vulnerability – and we have seen its deepest source. For as long as whole regions of the world _____ in resentment and tyranny – prone to ideologies that feed hatred and excuse murder – violence will gather, and multiply in destructive power, and cross the most defended borders, and raise a _____ threat. There is only one force of history that can break the reign of hatred and resentment, and expose the pretensions of tyrants, and reward the hopes of the decent and tolerant, and that is the force of human freedom.”

President Bush stated spreading democracy around the world was the only way to end tyranny,

“it is the policy of the United States to seek and support the _____ of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world. ... Freedom, by its nature, must be _____, and defended by citizens, and sustained by the rule of law and the protection of minorities.”

He said that however culturally different a nation is, America will _____ its people and customs,

“when the soul of a nation finally speaks, the institutions that arise may reflect customs and traditions very different from our own. America will not _____ our own style of government on the unwilling. Our goal instead is to help others find their own voice, attain their own freedom, and make their own way.”

He concluded his speech by saying, “we are ready for the _____ achievements in the history of freedom. May God _____ you, and may He watch over the United States of America.”

respect
tyranny
chosen
bless
freedom
mortal
impose
simmer
growth
greatest

DISCUSSION:

- (a) What do you think of US President George W. Bush?
- (b) Is the world a safer place under his leadership?
- (c) How will he be remembered in history?
- (d) What one question would you ask if you met him?
- (e) What is his greatest mistake?
- (f) What is his greatest achievement?
- (g) Why does President Bush always say 'God Bless America', but never 'God Bless the world'?
- (h) Why is President Bush disliked in many countries?
- (i) Which one adjective would you use to describe President Bush, and why?
- (j) If you were to compare President Bush to an animal, what would best represent him?
- (k) What do you think the President's greatest aim is?
- (l) If you were President Bush, what is the first thing you would do?
- (m) Some people believe he should receive the Nobel peace prize, some believe he should be tried for war crimes. What do you think?
- (n) Will President Bush win his war on terror?
- (o) What would Osama Bin Laden say to President Bush if they met each other?
- (p) What is freedom?
- (q) Teacher's / Students' additional questions

INTERNET / WEB LINKS:

What American voters think of a second Bush term:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/4189187.stm>

What the world thinks of President Bush (from the BBC)

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/4184023.stm

The world's Press reaction to President Bush's speech

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/4193047.stm>

The White House:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

HOMEWORK:

FREEDOM POSTER: Create a poster explaining 'freedom'.

LETTER TO GEORGE W.: Write a letter to the US President George W. Bush explaining what you think he should do over the next four years.

FULL TEXT

Bush promises the world Freedom (Sat 22 Jan)

bNE: President George W. Bush was sworn into office in the inauguration for his second term in office promising to fight **tyranny** and bring **freedom** around the world, saying that is the only way to prevent other 9-11s from occurring in the United States, “We have seen our vulnerability – and we have seen its deepest source. For as long as whole regions of the world **simmer** in resentment and tyranny – prone to ideologies that feed hatred and excuse murder – violence will gather, and multiply in destructive power, and cross the most defended borders, and raise a **mortal** threat. There is only one force of history that can break the reign of hatred and resentment, and expose the pretensions of tyrants, and reward the hopes of the decent and tolerant, and that is the force of human freedom.”

President Bush stated spreading democracy around the world was the only way to end tyranny,

“it is the policy of the United States to seek and support the **growth** of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world. ... Freedom, by its nature, must be **chosen**, and defended by citizens, and sustained by the rule of law and the protection of minorities.”

He said that however culturally different a nation is, America will **respect** its people and customs,

“when the soul of a nation finally speaks, the institutions that arise may reflect customs and traditions very different from our own. America will not **impose** our own style of government on the unwilling. Our goal instead is to help others find their own voice, attain their own freedom, and make their own way.”

He concluded his speech by saying, “we are ready for the **greatest** achievements in the history of freedom. May God **bless** you, and may He watch over the United States of America.”