

North Allegheny

Speech and Debate

10 January 2015

Resolution to Develop the Arts in Education

1 WHEREAS: The arts are underdeveloped and underfunded in the American education system.

2 WHEREAS: The arts further contribute to intellectual development in students.

3 WHEREAS: The arts are as crucial as other core subjects and should be emphasized to a higher
4 extent as stated by the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act.

5 WHEREAS: Arts programs provide students with a myriad of skills so that they become well-
6 rounded adults.

7 WHEREAS: The arts bring creativity and independence among students.

8 WHEREAS: The government's duty is to further the educational development of its citizens.

9 Therefore, let it be resolved that the government should fund arts programs in schools to promote
10 a developed education.

A Resolution to End Gerrymandering

1 WHEREAS: Gerrymandering is the greatest crime of the 21st century and should be ended.

2 WHEREAS: Gerrymandering gives an unfair advantage to the majorities of states while
3 discriminating against the minorities.

4 WHEREAS: Many Southern states continue to gerrymander despite the fact that it
5 disenfranchises locals.

6 WHEREAS: Current legislation has failed to address the problem, and is worsening the problem
7 in many places.

8 WHEREAS: Gerrymandering is a problem that is occurring in most states and has been prevalent
9 since the founding of the country.

10 WHEREAS: Gerrymandering is destroying our representative form of democracy of which this
11 country is based by not representing the community as a whole.

12 WHEREAS: Gerrymandering doesn't even accomplish its goals, as often times it can actually
13 increase electoral competition in their districts.

14 WHEREAS: Gerrymandering directly destroys our country's principles of equality and
15 opportunity for all while not correctly representing our populous.

16 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Student Congress here today that gerrymandering by
17 the federal and state governments be ended for good.

A BILL TO CLOSE GUANTANAMO BAY

- 1 WHEREAS: Guantanamo Bay, a US military base in Cuba, practices torture
- 2 WHEREAS: Prisoners do not retain the same legal rights as those in American prisons
- 3 WHEREAS: Human rights are violated as long as Guantanamo Bay's doors are open
- 4 WHEREAS: This is a clear violation of the Geneva Convention
- 5 WHEREAS: Harsh living conditions jeopardize the safety of prisoners
- 6 WHEREAS: There is virtually no oversight over US military personnel
- 7 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED that
- 8 Guantanamo Bay in Cuba should be closed immediately.

A Resolution to Increase CDC Funding

1 WHEREAS, the funding will be used for the research of Ebola and other widespread diseases

2 WHEREAS, 85% of CDC funding comes from grants

3 WHEREAS, Congress gave an emergency cash injection last month of \$30 million to the CDC

4 to deal with the Ebola crisis before taking a break for the midterms, its budget was just \$5.8

5 billion in 2014, down from \$6.3 million in 2010

6 WHEREAS, the epidemic is now affecting US citizens

7 WHEREAS, the President has stated, the Ebola epidemic in West Africa and the humanitarian

8 crisis there is a top national security priority for the United States.

9 WHEREAS, individuals are not a significant source of funding

10 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Student Congress here today that U.S.citizens should

11 contribute more to CDC funding.

A Resolution To Keep America and African Airlines Healthy

1 WHEREAS: According to the World Health Organization, more than 3400 people in Africa have
2 died from the Ebola virus and that number is rapidly growing.

3 WHEREAS: Ebola is easily contagious and transmitted through contact from bodily fluids and is
4 an airborne virus.

5 WHEREAS: American citizens are at risk for contracting the virus through those who have
6 traveled from Africa.

7 WHEREAS: There is no cure for the Ebola virus.

8 WHEREAS: By having this in place we will be preventing nationwide epidemic.

9 WHEREAS: The implementation of this program shall be overseen by the Department of Health
10 and Department of Justice.

11 RESOLVED: By the Student Congress here assembled, the requirement for African airlines to
12 provide a medical history of passengers traveling from Africa to the United States is essential to
13 the health of the nation.

A Resolution to Abolish the Keystone Exams

1 WHEREAS: The Keystone exams do not offer a true test of knowledge of the subjects covered,
2 including Literature, Biology, and Algebra.

3 WHEREAS: Class curriculums are centered on teaching to the Keystone exam rather than
4 learning the subject in its entirety.

5 WHEREAS: Many students' span of knowledge is inaccurately measured because they are not
6 good test takers or do not perform well under pressure.

7 WHEREAS: The burden of a high graduation requisite presents an unfair harm to those who
8 cannot pass the memorization test.

9 WHEREAS: The subject areas covered by the Keystones are not essential for life skills in the
10 workforce.

11 WHEREAS: The Pennsylvania Department of Education has social and economic problems
12 other than standardized tests to worry about.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the student Congress here assembled, that the Keystone
14 exams must be abolished in the state of Pennsylvania.

A Resolution to Eliminate Surveillance in Public Schools

- 1 WHEREAS Security Cameras in public schools violate students' individual right to privacy
- 2 WHEREAS Surveillance systems violate the Fourth Amendment right to be protected against
- 3 "unreasonable searches and seizures"
- 4 WHEREAS Every previously trivial student infraction could have the potential to become
- 5 criminalized
- 6 WHEREAS Potential abusers have easy access to security tapes because of the government's
- 7 open record law
- 8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED we end surveillance in public schools.

A BILL TO RECOGNIZE THE SILK ROAD AS A LEGITIMATE MARKETPLACE

1 WHEREAS, the Silk Road, a marketplace launched in 2011 for the selling of drugs, was shut
2 down by the FBI; and

3 WHEREAS, past attempts have shown that is nearly impossible to shut down the drug market
4 since the suppliers simply move to other sites; and

5 WHEREAS, the Silk Road is a reputable source that quality-checks the drugs for dangerous
6 substances the vendors supply; and

7 WHEREAS, after the Silk Road was shut down, thousands of scam websites opened to swindle
8 consumers out of millions of dollars' worth of Bitcoin; and

9 WHEREAS, according to the Digital Citizens Alliance, black market sales rose as much as 70%
10 after the Silk Road was shut down; and

11 WHEREAS, the Silk Road managed to pull in \$22 million dollars annually by Forbes, be it

12 RESOLVED, By the Student Congress here assembled that we recognize the Black Market as a
13 legitimate market to further regulate and combat the drug market, and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, that a 10% sin tax will be applied to consumers buying drugs from the
15 Silk Road in order to fund other government projects.

A Resolution to Abolish Hate Crime Against the Homeless

- 1 WHEREAS: Hate crimes against the homeless have jumped 24% from 2012 to 2013 and
- 2 WHEREAS: according to ThinkProgress, the “FBI does not currently recognize homelessness as
- 3 a protected class when determining hate crime statistics” and
- 4 WHEREAS: it undermines the fundamental values of our country and
- 5 WHEREAS: many innocent people have been killed and
- 6 WHEREAS: rules of justice for all are undermined.
- 7 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the student congress that crimes against the homeless
- 8 should be recognized as hate crimes and given the more harsh penalties associated with the label
- 9 of “hate crime.”

A Resolution to Raise the Legal Driving Age in the U.S. to 18

1 WHEREAS: Motor vehicle crashes remain the #1 cause of death for adolescents.

2 WHEREAS: The greatest lifetime chance of crashing occurs in the first six months after
3 receiving a license, and

4 WHEREAS: The fatal crash rate per mile driven is nearly twice as high for 16-17 year-olds as it
5 is for 18-19 year olds.

6 WHEREAS: The fatal crash rate for drivers of ages 16 to 19, based on miles driven, is four times
7 higher than that of drivers aged 25 to 69.

8 WHEREAS: 56% of teens say they talk on the phone while driving, and

9 WHEREAS: the fatal crash rate per mile driven for 16 to 19-year-olds is nearly three times the
10 rate for drivers above the age of 20.

11 WHEREAS: 33% of deaths among 13 to 19-year-olds in 2010 occurred in motor vehicle crashes.

12 WHEREAS: Teenagers increase the fatal crash rate of all drivers in the U.S.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the legal driving age in the United States be raised from
14 16 to 18.

A Bill to Abolish Class Rank in High Schools

1 WHEREAS: According to the National Association for College Admission Counseling, 23% of
2 colleges attach ‘considerable importance’ to class rank as a factor of admissions, and

3 WHEREAS: Student stress level dramatically increases because of the desire to achieve a high
4 rank among their peers, and

5 WHEREAS: competition for a class rank is unnecessary because size of schools vary, and

6 WHEREAS: focus shifts from learning to merely succeeding, because of the unnecessary stress
7 placed on students by schools, and

8 WHEREAS: class rank is not an accurate measure of a student’s full potential

9 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Class rank should be abolished in public high schools

A BILL TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR RESEARCH OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

- 1 WHEREAS: By 2040 world oil production will be at 20% of current consumption
- 2 WHEREAS: The use of oil contributes to global warming, a serious issue in the coming years,
3 and it has destroyed the environment
- 4 WHEREAS: Renewable energy will provide job opportunities across the globe and increase
5 development of developing countries
- 6 WHEREAS: The costs of oil extraction and management continue to rise and increase
7 dependence of countries on others
- 8 THEREFORE: The United States and developed nations should implement policies to increase
9 pursuits of renewable energy to set examples for less developed nations to remove dependence
10 on nonrenewable resources and to further protect humans and the environment.

A Bill to Limit Water Consumption Across the United States

1 SECTION 1: All water consumers in the United States shall consume a no more than a given
2 quantity of freshwater per month.

3 SECTION 2: Water consumer is defined as the consumption of freshwater by both individuals
4 and freshwater used in industrial applications, such as farming and manufacturing. Currently 3.9
5 trillion gallons of water are consumed by Americans per month, and states such as California are
6 already forced to enact water consumption regulations.

7 SECTION 3: Americans consume water in excess as the average African family consumes 5
8 gallons of water per day compared to 179 gallons consumed per day by individual Americans.

9 SECTION 4: The Environmental Protection Agency will oversee the implementation of this bill
10 as it already monitors water consumption and promotes water efficiency via WaterSense labels.

11 SECTION 5: This policy will be enacted on January 1st, 2016.

12 SECTION 6: All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

13 A consumer shall be charged a fine of \$50 per gallon over the limit.

Bill to Increase Penalties for Sex Crimes

1 WHEREAS: A recent law in California alleviated control of sex offenders on probation. In
2 consequence, the average number of sex crimes increased by 65%, and

3 WHEREAS: A stricter law will be imposed on sex offenders to prevent similar and repeated
4 violations, and

5 WHEREAS: After the first offense, the perpetrators will be sentenced to imprisonment for 7 to
6 20 years. After they are released from imprisonment, they will have to wear the ankle bracelets
7 for the rest of their lives, and

8 WHEREAS: On the second offense, the perpetrators will be sentenced to imprisonment for 20 to
9 30 years, or for life. Upon their release, they will also have to wear the ankle bracelets for the
10 rest of their lives, and

11 WHEREAS: After repeated offenses, the perpetrators will be sentenced to imprisonment for life,

12 WHEREAS: In the case of both rape and murder, the perpetrators will be sentenced to
13 imprisonment for life, and

14 WHEREAS: This law will prevent an increase in sex crime rates and protect the innocent victims
15 of sex crimes,

A Bill to reinforce gun control

1 WHEREAS: Mental background checks should be enforced in all states, and only 15 states have
2 mental background checks. Mental issues are the main causes for tragedies, such as shootings.

3 WHEREAS: The age limit to get a gun permit is only 21 years old. That is the same age as the
4 limit for alcohol consumption, and people can drink alcohol at home and have their gun easily
5 accessed at the same time.

6 WHEREAS: Many people have guns or live in a household with a gun. There are about 270
7 million to 310 million guns in the U.S. About a third of the U.S says that they have a gun in
8 their household.

9 WHEREAS: Guns are too easy to apply for. When you apply for a gun permit, it only takes
10 about 75 days.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the PHSSL State Student Congress here assembled that:

12 For an American citizen to gain access to a gun, they must be 30 years of age, have a full and
13 throughout mental health check, and have periodic updates with their county sheriff for gun
14 control lessons.

A Bill to Support Feminine Hygiene Products

1 WHEREAS: Feminine hygiene products, such as sanitary napkins and tampons, are a necessary
2 aspect of healthcare for about half the United States population.

3 WHEREAS: In many states, such as California, New York, and Ohio, sales tax applies to
4 feminine hygiene products as they are considered non-essential, luxury items.

5 WHEREAS: Welfare does not cover the purchase of sanitary products, and many women are
6 forced to sell food stamps to pay for these products, as reported by the Investigative Fund.

7 WHEREAS: For women in prisons, there is often inadequate supply of hygiene products in
8 prisons, or they cost money in the prison commissary.

9 BE IT ENACTED by the Student Congress here today:

10 SECTION 1: All sales taxes are removed from sanitary napkins, tampons or similar items used
11 for feminine hygiene.

12 SECTION 2: All federal prisons are required to provide free feminine hygiene products to all
13 female inmates.

14 SECTION 3: Feminine hygiene products will be distributed to low-income women through the
15 Title X Family Planning service, in the Department of Health and Human Services, and its
16 requirements.

A Resolution to Remove Racial Stereotypes from Children Shows

- 1 WHEREAS: Racial Stereotypes need to be removed from children shows
- 2 WHEREAS: Indians and Black People receive stereotypes in children shows
- 3 WHEREAS: Asians are portrayed as being nerds
- 4 WHEREAS: African American are always breaking into schools and houses
- 5 WHEREAS: There is one Indian kid on the show Jesse who is portrayed as the typical racial
- 6 stereotype
- 7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the PHSSL State Student Congress here assembled that:
- 8 Racial stereotypes be removed from children's television.

A Resolution to Abolish Early College Admissions

1 WHEREAS: Early college admissions increase stress on students; stress on current high
2 school students is the same as that of those in 1950s mental asylums; and

3 WHEREAS: encourages laziness in students in their senior year that have already been
4 accepted to a college; and

5 WHEREAS: increases social issues between students and their peers when some are
6 admitted early and others are not; and

7 WHEREAS: students that apply early decision are required to attend that school regardless
8 of other options;

9 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Student Congress here today that early college
10 admissions should abolished from colleges throughout the United States

A Resolution To Impose Medical Inspections for Ebola-Infested Countries

- 1 WHEREAS: The average Ebola virus disease fatality rate is around 50%.
- 2 WHEREAS: Thomas Eric Duncan traveled from Africa to the US bringing the disease
- 3 WHEREAS: Ebola is quickly spread through direct contact, meaning that it's very contagious.
- 4 WHEREAS: No antiviral medications have proved effective in treating infection with either
- 5 virus.
- 6 WHEREAS: 3,439 people have died from the recent outbreak in West Africa
- 7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the PHSSL State Student Congress here assembled that:
- 8 that the government implements medical inspections at borders from people coming from
- 9 infected countries.

A Resolution to Limit Homework for High School Students

1 WHEREAS: It has been proven that copious amounts of homework lead to increased stress and
2 anxiety in teenagers.

3 WHEREAS: Limited sleep has caused sleep deprivation and health problems.

4 WHEREAS: Students are unable to get involved in activities due to a lack of free time.

5 WHEREAS: It was found that students who sacrificed sleep to study had more trouble
6 understanding the material taught in class.

7 WHEREAS: Less than 1% of students that participated in a study said that homework did not
8 cause them stress.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS GATHERED TODAY
10 THAT there should be a limit on the amount of homework allowed for high school students.

A Resolution to ban cluster munitions

- 1 WHEREAS: cluster munitions are not accurate in specific targets
- 2 WHEREAS: cluster munitions have a wide range and often kill civilians
- 3 WHEREAS: Cluster munitions can leave dangerous unexploded remains, and these can disturb
- 4 social and economic development
- 5 WHEREAS: Cluster munitions are hard to control. Weather patterns can alter the route or plan
- 6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the PHSSL State Student Congress here assembled that:
- 7 we ban cluster munitions

A Resolution to Implement Age Restrictions OF Electronic Cigarettes

1 WHEREAS: Currently, no age restriction exists on Electronic Cigarettes

2 WHEREAS: Electronic Cigarettes are just as addictive as conventional cigarettes due to the
3 same amounts of nicotine

4 WHEREAS: They are easy to be concealed in schools as they are scentless, and can be disguised
5 as writing utensils.

6 WHEREAS: Electronic Cigarettes cause the many of the same health issues as conventional
7 cigarettes.

8 WHEREAS: Electronic Cigarettes are easier to obtain as there currently are no age restrictions,
9 causing addiction at a younger age.

10 WHEREAS: Because Electronic Cigarettes are new, there are many unknown health issues to
11 young people.

12 THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED: That there be an age restriction of 18 be imposed on
13 Electronic Cigarettes.

A RESOLUTION FOR AN INCREASE IN SIN TAX

- 1 WHEREAS: An increase in sin tax decreases the incentive for people to buy the product
- 2 WHEREAS: The money gained from the increase in sin tax goes towards charitable foundations
- 3 WHEREAS: Decreases the number of health problems, because less people will be able to afford
- 4 it
- 5 WHEREAS: Deters future buyers
- 6 WHEREAS: Directly benefits the poor because the majority of smokers are poor people
- 7 WHEREAS: The Health Department of the United States oversees this process
- 8 THEREFORE: An increase in sin tax will benefit the population

A RESOLUTION TO END THE ELECTORAL COLLAGE

1 Whereas Electoral College is outdated and no longer the appropriate system for the United
2 States

3 Whereas Electoral College does not fairly represent population's opinion

4 Whereas the Electoral College allows for winner of popular vote to lose the overall election

5 Whereas Electoral College was created to serve smaller states but this is no longer needed

6 Whereas Electoral College distorts the one-person, one-vote principle of democracy

7 Whereas Electoral College puts focus on swing states only

8 Whereas Electoral College makes it hard for third parties to win elections

9 Therefore be it resolved by this congress that the Electoral College be abolished

A Resolution to Enforce a School Uniform in Public Schools

- 1 WHEREAS: the school will have a better reputation; and
- 2 WHEREAS: the students will be more respected in the educational world; and
- 3 WHEREAS: there will be less distractions in the learning environment; and
- 4 WHEREAS: students will be dressed more appropriately in front of faculty; and
- 5 WHEREAS: students who cannot afford nice clothes will feel left out; and
- 6 WHEREAS: students who tend to dress differently will not be bullied; and
- 7 WHEREAS: when students have a safe bully free learning environment attendance rates will
- 8 increase; and
- 9 WHEREAS: it will give the school a sense of unity; and
- 10 WHEREAS: it will be easier to identify intruders in the school; and
- 11 WHEREAS: Draa reported that on average graduation rates are 11 percent higher at schools that
- 12 require uniforms