

| Extended essay: Example commentary | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Subject | English A: language and literature | WSEE theme (if applicable): | |
| Category for language essays (if applicable): | Category 3 | Subjects used for WSEE (if applicable): | |
| Title of essay: | Rhetoric used in gun violence debate | | |
| Research question: | How do various rhetors use exigency to persuade their audiences on the issue of gun violence? | | |
| Assessment details | | | |
| Criterion | Mark awarded | Commentary | |
| A: Focus and method [Maximum possible mark: 6] | 5 | Although the research question on the title page looks broad, it is narrowed within the introduction, where primary sources are identified and contextualized using exigency—the urgency surrounding two stakeholders' positions on gun control—as the common element. The discussion is clearly focused on the research question throughout. Sources are a reasonable mix of primary, contextual, and rhetorical. | |
| B: Knowledge and understanding [Maximum possible mark: 6] | 6 | The candidate demonstrates relevant and appropriate application of the source materials—they show how the rhetorical and contextual sources can illuminate the primary texts. Appropriate subject-specific rhetorical terminology is used throughout, indicating excellent knowledge and understanding of both the terminology and how the speakers engage these rhetorical devices. | |
| C: Critical thinking [Maximum possible mark: 12] | 12 | The candidate analyses not only the speakers' speeches but also how and where they present themselves and their positions, which offers a full and thoughtful argument. In doing so, the candidate draws effective conclusions about how the speakers interpret exigency—and indeed, how they use rhetoric to draw their own opposite conclusions from the same evidence. | |
| D: Presentation [Maximum possible mark: 4] | 4 | The structure of the essay is appropriate for the topic; layout considerations are in place and applied correctly. Texts of the speeches are usefully provided in the “Appendix” following the “Bibliography”. | |
| E: Engagement [Maximum possible mark: 6] | 6 | The candidate demonstrates both personal and intellectual engagement with the topic, demonstrating how they refined both their sources and their approach, via exigency. They reflect on how their research into contextual and rhetorical sources helped them develop their argument—and make discoveries—and they discuss how they find themselves newly positioned to explore the effect of language in other real-world situations. | |
| Total marks awarded | 33/34 | This is a thorough analysis of two different speeches on the same topic, both employing exigency for different purposes. The candidate engages an ongoing social issue with objectivity and skill. | |

Topic: Rhetoric Used in Gun Violence Debate

Research Question: How do various rhetors use exigency to persuade their audiences on the issue of gun violence?

IB Subject: IB English A Language and Literature: Category 3

Exam Date:

Word Count: 3994

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Introduction

The word, “exigence,” is derived from the Latin word for “demand.” This term can also be translated into urgency. There are two primary schools of thought on rhetorical exigence. According to Lloyd F. Bitzer, an American rhetorician who first coined the term, “An exigence is rhetorical when it is capable of positive modification and when positive modification requires discourse or can be assisted by discourse.”¹ In short, an emergency situation which is capable of being changed through dialogue creates the impetus for most exigence or urgency. Language must be used to effect positive change. On the other hand, rhetorician Richard E. Vatz argues that “rhetors choose or do not choose to make salient situations, facts, events, etc. This may be the *sine qua non* of rhetoric: the art of linguistically or symbolically creating salience. After salience is created, the situation must be translated into meaning.”² In other words, Vatz believes that it is the rhetors who create urgency by choosing to recognize a specific issue. To clarify, the aim of the paper is not to choose between Bitzer’s and Vatz’s schools of thought, but instead, these schools of thought are meant to provide context for the salience of each speech.

These schools of thought led to the following research question: *How do various rhetors use exigency to persuade their audiences on the issue of gun violence?* To explore this question, this paper will examine two speeches, both rooted in the exigency of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. On February 14, 2018, a 19 year-old gunman entered Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, killing 17 students. This mass shooting shed new light on an age-old problem in America, spurring the formation of the

¹ Lloyd F. Bitzer, “The rhetorical situation.” *Philosophy & rhetoric* (1992): 1-14.

² Richard E. Vatz, “The myth of the rhetorical situation.” *Philosophy & rhetoric* (1973): 154-161.

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March for Our Lives movement, a youth demonstration against gun violence. While these speeches are centered around the same issue, their responses to this tragic event are largely opposite. The first speech is spoken by Emma Gonzalez, a survivor of the Parkland shooting, while the second speech is spoken by Wayne LaPierre, CEO of the National Rifle Association (NRA). While Gonzalez's speech argues for greater gun control, LaPierre's speech defends the NRA from criticism, as well as bolsters the need for guns. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the different techniques both rhetors use as they respond to the exigency of the Parkland shooting.

Emma Gonzalez's Speech

Emma Gonzalez gave a twelve minute speech at a gun control rally in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on February 17, 2018, three days after the shooting.³ While this speech is intended for the younger generation, it also appeals to left-leaning, progressive adults. Gonzalez wrote this speech as a way to push for greater gun control legislation and to reduce the amount of gun violence in the country. In her speech, Emma Gonzalez illustrates the dire need for change in relation to the issue of gun violence in the United States.

Gonzalez uses her visual appearance and presentation in order to highlight herself as a student survivor and American citizen. She appears at the Parkland survivor gun rally, wearing a simple black tank top and a few colorful bracelets on her wrist. This casual clothing helps to establish her credibility as a young student survivor. This is further reinforced when she shows the crowd her AP Government notes. By showing her notes, Gonzalez stresses that she is actually applying what she has learned in class by directly participating in democracy and

³ Emma Gonzalez, "We Call BS" (speech, Anti-Gun Rally, Florida, Fort Lauderdale), February 17, 2018, accessed July 27, 2019, www.cnn.com/2018/02/17/us/florida-student-emma-gonzalez-speech/index.html.

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exercising her right to free speech. This tangible evidence helps Gonzalez ingrain herself as an engaged member of the American community, and it adds a patriotic element to her speech, as it depicts her as someone who truly wants to improve and fix the issue of gun violence.

Furthermore, in front of Gonzalez’s podium, there was a small American flag that was slanted downwards. While the flag is a symbol of patriotism, its slanted position represents the broken parts of America’s political system, as well as the loss of lives at the hands of a mass shooting. It is also a reference to the lowering of the American flag after a national tragedy, making it a symbol of mourning and loss. Hence, Gonzalez uses visual presentation to increase her own credibility while addressing the audience.

Gonzalez utilizes her position as a high school student engaged in civil action to emphasize the inaction of politicians for the purpose of increasing gun control. She says: “Instead of worrying about our AP Gov chapter 16 test, we have to be studying our notes to make sure that our arguments based on politics and political history are watertight.” She mentions that the class “had about three [gun] debates this year.” By mentioning “AP Gov” in her speech, Gonzalez highlights her status as a high school student, emphasizing the tragedy of the shooting, as well as the loss of innocence for the young generation. However, Gonzalez creates situational irony, as she undermines and disregards the stereotype of an apathetic, carefree teenager. Unlike what the stereotype suggests, Gonzalez takes the time to properly learn about the American government and the issue of gun violence and is passionate enough to give a speech to thousands. However, the politicians and lawmakers, whose job it is to legislate the will of the American electorate, “maintain telling us how nothing is going to be done about” this tragedy; they are apathetic to the situation and inhibit any progress towards gun legislation

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action. This ironic role reversal depicts the flaws and dysfunctional nature of America's political system, creating an element of absurdity to the situation. Hence, this situational irony portrays the lack of interest of politicians towards gun violence.

Parallelism is used to encourage the audience to fight for greater gun control and less gun violence. Gonzalez uses a parallel structure when she says: "We are going to be the kids you read about in textbooks.... we are going to be the last mass shooting. Just like *Tinker v. Des Moines*, we are going to change the law." The repeated use of the phrase "we are going to be" forms this parallel structure. This refrain highlights the change that Gonzalez believes the future generation can bring, and it provides the image of youthful rebellion. The verb tense of this refrain is present progressive, conveying the ongoing, continuous nature of this rebellion and never-ending battle against the corrupt political influence of gun lobbying. Furthermore, in these lines, Gonzalez applies a deamplification of the steps needed to promote change. In the first line, she states that the young generation will go down in history, and then, she explains that the Parkland shooting will be the final one. Finally, in the last line, she states that they will change the law. Through this deamplification, she explains that in order for change to occur, they must first pass new legislation, which will stop the occurrence of mass shootings; for this reason, her generation will always be remembered. The primary end result, being remembered in history, is introduced first to highlight the significance of the movement that Gonzalez wishes to bring. Therefore, Gonzalez uses parallelism and deamplification to inspire her audience.

Gonzalez uses parallelism to assert the need for change in America's political system. Near the end of her speech, Gonzalez says: "They say a good guy with a gun stops a bad guy with a gun. We call BS. They say guns are just tools like knives and are as dangerous as cars. We

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call BS.... That us kids don't know what we're talking about, that we're too young to understand how the government works. We call BS." Gonzalez forms a parallel structure by repeating the phrase: "We call BS." She uses this refrain to form a proleptic argument, where she anticipates any counter-arguments from her opponents. In these lines, Gonzalez challenges gun lobbyists and corrupt politicians, responding to their excuses and arguments with the phrase "We call BS." This refrain is a call-to-action, and it becomes a defiant chant among the audience at the rally. This creates an assertive, confident tone that evokes a charged and revolutionary mood among the audience. Furthermore, it creates two polarizing sides, with the future generation on one side and the corrupt politicians on the other. This is punctuated with the use of a collective pronoun "we," indicating the solidarity of the audience, who is the young generation and progressive, left-leaning individuals, as they work towards this common goal. Finally, Gonzalez concludes by stating: "If you agree, register to vote. Contact your local congresspeople. Give them a piece of your mind." The use of imperative syntax forms a parallel structure. The command verbs convey a clear call-to-action, where Gonzalez explains the steps that need to be taken in order to promote change. Furthermore, this syntax is a type of isocolon that creates a cadence for action, emphasizing the need for political activism. Parallelism is used to challenge corrupt politicians and convince the audience to do their part in fixing America's political system.

Gonzalez utilizes allusion to express the enormity of their fight against gun violence. She says: "Just like *Tinker v. Des Moines*, we are going to change the law." *Tinker v. Des Moines* was a Supreme Court case in 1965, where a high school sent students home for wearing black armbands to protest the Vietnam War.⁴ The court ruled in favor of the students, stating that even

⁴ Abe Fortas, and Supreme Court Of The United States. U.S. Reports: *Tinker v. Des Moines School Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503. 1968. Periodical. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/usrep393503/>.

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on school property, an individual's First Amendment rights are still protected. The mention of the court case, *Tinker v. Des Moines*, in this line increases Gonzalez's credibility, as it characterizes her as someone who is knowledgeable of American jurisprudence, adding historical weight to her words. By mentioning a case connected to First Amendment rights, Gonzalez expresses how she is currently applying her freedom of speech through this rally, as she openly challenges politicians and pushes for more gun legislation. Also, through this allusion, Gonzalez forces the audience to remember the Vietnam War and the rebellion the younger generation held against it. She implies that gun violence is an issue of equal importance to that of the Vietnam War, suggesting that gun violence is this young generation's great social cause, just like the Vietnam War was in the 1960's. Furthermore, Gonzalez specifically mentions the *Tinker v. Des Moines* case, because of its success. This case is political and judicial proof that America's youth can promote a positive and lasting change. This connection expresses Gonzalez's hopes of having the same impact. This jurisprudence allusion is used to highlight the nature and chance of success of the fight against gun violence.

Allusion is used to expose the corruption in America's political system. At the end of her speech, the audience's final response to Gonzalez, as she calls out various politicians, particularly challenging President Trump when she says that she would ask him, "how much money he received from the National Rifle Association," is to chant "Throw them out." This is an allusion to the chant of Trump supporters during his bid for the 2016 presidency. During a rally, Trump discussed Hillary Clinton, rousing the crowd into a chant of "lock her up."⁵ Both imperative phrases, "throw them out" and "lock her up," are monosyllabic three word sentences.

⁵ Donald Trump, "Presidential Rally." The Washington Post. Presidential Rally, 10 Oct. 2016, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, www.washingtonpost.com/video/politics/trump-on-clinton-lock-her-up-is-right/2016/10/10/fd56d59e-8f51-11e6-bc00-1a9756d4111b_video.html?utm_term=.278ec776e0e5.

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They begin with a command and are intended to energize the audience. However, the phrase “throw them out” is used as a way of mocking Trump. Trump supporters chanted “lock her up” with the intention of calling out the corruption of Hillary Clinton. Their objective was to hold Clinton accountable for the perceived political corruption. Since Gonzalez speaks out on Trump’s own corruption, the audience responds with a similar chant, emphasizing Trump’s hypocrisy. Therefore, allusion is used to challenge corrupt politicians, such as President Trump.

Overall, Gonzalez uses visual presentation, irony, parallelism, and allusion to illustrate the desperate need for action against gun violence in America. With these devices, she not only establishes herself as a student survivor forced to grow up in a dangerous world, but she also promotes the power of rebellion to convince her young audience to join her in this fight against corruption and gun violence, as well as calls politicians to a state of action.

Wayne LaPierre’s Speech

On February 22, 2018, Wayne LaPierre, CEO of the National Rifle Association (NRA), gave a forty minute speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), an annual political conference that attracts conservatives and politicians from all over the country.⁶

LaPierre directs his words towards conservative CPAC supporters with the purpose of strengthening relations with them, as well as responding to the blame that is being placed on the NRA. In his speech, Wayne LaPierre illustrates the importance of the NRA and the necessity of having guns in the country.

⁶ Wayne LaPierre (speech, Conservative Political Action Conference, Maryland, National Harbor, February 22, 2018), February 22, 2018, accessed July 27, 2019, www.c-span.org/video/?441475-3/conservative-political-action-conference-wayne-lapierre-remarks.

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Not all rhetorical devices are linguistic; LaPierre's physical appearance suggests as much about his purpose and argument as his words do. Wearing a navy blue suit and tie, LaPierre projects a reassuring and commanding figure; his sleek and stylish glasses convey an image of a knowledgeable and firm leader. His appearance is a stark contrast to that of Emma Gonzalez. Emma Gonzalez wore casual clothing that is normal to any high school student to establish herself as a young and independent survivor. On the other hand, LaPierre's professional clothing establishes him as a spokesperson for a larger organization, reducing his individuality; rather than characterizing himself as a member of the community, he establishes his position as a spokesperson for the NRA. Furthermore, with the image of the Capitol Building looming imperiously behind LaPierre, the background suggests that LaPierre has full political support coming from Congress, the Capitol's inhabitants. This depicts LaPierre as a very influential man who is capable of taking action to support his words. This contrasts the effect of the drooping American flag that Gonzalez had on her podium; while her flag is a symbol for the flaws in the American political system, LaPierre's background represents high status and power. Therefore, visual presentation is used to characterize LaPierre as a man of action, influence, and political consequence in order to establish credibility as he advocates for the importance of guns.

LaPierre uses dehumanizing imagery to victimize gun supporters. He begins his speech by noting that "the opportunists wasted not one second to exploit tragedy for political gain.... The break back speed of calls for more gun control laws and the breathless national media eager to smear the NRA." In these lines, the words "opportunists," "exploit," and "smear" have harsh connotations that characterize left-leaning anti-gun politicians as greedy and selfish. The word "tragedy" highlights the insensitivity and heartlessness of the left-wing politicians during the

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shooting. These vitriolic words, particularly the phrase “smear the NRA” depicts the organization as helpless victims of character assassination. This is reinforced by the syntax of the phrase “smear the NRA.” In this line, the NRA is the direct object of the phrase, meaning that it is taking the action of smearing; this portrays the NRA as passive and innocent, characterizing them as sympathetic. LaPierre also says: “The shameful politicization of tragedy, it is a classic strategy, right out of the playbook of a poisonous movement.” LaPierre uses a lexical field of gaming, such as “classic strategy” and “playbook,” to suggest that the Parkland shooting and other traumatic events is a game to left-leaning politicians; he implies that these politicians use these events to win and gain power, without any consideration of the real-world consequences of their attacks against the organization. Hence, dehumanizing imagery is used to portray left-leaning politicians as inhumane, sinister agents.

Parallelism is used to demonize the left-side to the conservative audience at the CPAC conference. When speaking of the left-side, LaPierre notes that “They hate the NRA. They hate the Second Amendment. They hate individual freedom.” This parallel structure highlights LaPierre’s use of auxesis. As he speaks each line, he amplifies the left-side’s agenda. He implies that because they hate the NRA, they must also despise the Second Amendment; in turn, since they dislike the Second Amendment, they must hate individual freedom. By gradually increasing the goals of left-leaning politicians through this transitive reasoning, LaPierre implies that the prohibition of guns is simply the first step to the restriction of basic rights. This amplification pits the left-side against one of the fundamental values of America, portraying the left as the enemy. A similar technique of creating a common enemy is utilized in Gonzalez’s speech; she pits the community against corrupt politicians, such as Trump, while LaPierre depicts the

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political left as the enemy. Furthermore, when describing the Democratic Party, LaPierre notes that it is “a party that is now infested with saboteurs who don’t believe in capitalism, don’t believe in the Constitution, don’t believe in our freedom, and don’t believe in America as we know it.” Similar to the previous line, this sentence uses amplification in its parallel structure. LaPierre progresses from the local issue of guns to a more abstract universal problem of lack of freedom and a disregard of American ideals; this movement emphasizes that all Americans, regardless of whether they support the NRA, will be affected by the left-side’s agenda. He polarizes the community against the left, as well as spurs fear and anxiety over the issue of gun control. Furthermore, LaPierre uses the verb “infested,” which is associated with insects; he does this to dehumanize the Democratic Party, characterizing them as an infectious swarm. He portrays them as animals that have no respect for human rights. To further describe the Democratic Party, LaPierre states that “they politicize the Department of Justice. They weaponize the Internal Revenue Service. The EPA. Perhaps cripple the FBI. And the Intelligence Community.” The use of parallel structure in this line highlights the devastating effect that the left-side has on America’s political system. LaPierre uses violent and atrophying language, such as “politicize,” “weaponize,” and “cripple,” to emphasize how left-wing politicians are influencing all aspects of the American government, and they are making changes that worsens and weakens the system. This language bolsters the word “infested” in the previous line. Therefore, parallelism is used to characterize the political left as the country’s enemy.

LaPierre also uses malignant imagery to highlight the need for guns. He tells his audience that “evil walks among us. And God help us if we don’t harden our schools and protect our kids.” He personifies evil to inspire fear among the audience, encouraging people to be

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distrustful of one another. LaPierre creates this image of a satanic force that resides within the country. By mentioning the words “evil” and “God,” LaPierre turns the issue of gun violence into an eternal moral struggle between good and evil. He describes mass shootings in a religious sense, explaining that the rise of gun violence is a spiritual failing, as opposed to a physical problem that can be fixed. By raising this issue to an abstract level, LaPierre disregards the victims of the shootings, implying that they are merely the casualties of a larger battle. This is in direct contrast to Gonzalez’s views, as she almost entirely focuses on the victims and the trauma that they have gone through. LaPierre pairs this evil imagery with the need to “harden our schools and protect our kids” to suggest that guns are the weapons needed to fight this battle. LaPierre uses this malignant imagery to dramatize the necessity of guns in schools, which is opposite of Gonzalez’s goals of increasing gun control.

Heroic imagery is used to valorize the NRA. In the speech, LaPierre notes that “we at the NRA are Americans who continue to mourn and care and work every day at contributing real solutions to this very real problem.” LaPierre humanizes the NRA by portraying them as law-abiding American citizens that are a part of the community. This is reinforced by the phrase “to mourn and care and work.” This triplet of infinitive verbs depicts the NRA as compassionate and concerned. This sincere tone evokes a calm and trusting mood among the audience, encouraging the audience to rely on the NRA to fix America’s problems. Furthermore, in a compressed space, the triplet of verbs highlights a full cycle of actions related to gun violence, such as mourning the victims, caring and resolving to promote change, and working or truly taking action. This is reinforced when LaPierre says: “Everywhere I go I get a police officer coming up to me, thanking me and saying I’m a member of your organization, keep up what

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you’re doing.” He uses associative language, implying that upstanding members of the community, such as police officers, are honorable and active members of the NRA. Police officers, who risk their lives to protect the community, become central links to his organization; therefore, with the explicit approval of law enforcement, LaPierre is able to reconstruct the NRA’s presence as a vital bulwark against violent crime and irresponsible gun use. He establishes the organization as community-oriented, as well as further humanizing it. In addition, when discussing legislation related to background checks, LaPierre states that the “NRA supported it, NRA got the votes and NRA got it passed.” The use of action verbs, “supported” and “got,” form a parallel structure. By having the NRA as the subject of each phrase, LaPierre emphasizes that it was the NRA that performed the actions required to protect the community. With this triplet, he characterizes the organization as society’s guardians. This greatly differs from Gonzalez’s views; while she urges the American electorate to promote change to fix America’s political system, LaPierre convinces it to rely on the NRA to fulfill these needs. LaPierre concludes his speech with this: “To stop a bad guy with a gun, it takes a good guy with a gun.” In this line, he uses parallel structure to establish good and bad as equal opposites of each other; this implies that because there will always be evil, there must also always be heroes to fight it. Hence, as the NRA supports guns, the weapons needed to fight this battle, this organization would be its champions. In addition, the generic nominative “guy” is vague and ineffectual, and it contributes to the image of a major supernatural battle between the forces of good and evil. This line eliminates the physical aspect of the mass shootings that is rooted in reality, and instead, it adds a mythical layer to the real consequences of these shootings. Therefore, heroic imagery is used to establish the NRA as the protectors of the community.

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Overall, LaPierre uses visual presentation, imagery, and parallelism to illustrate the need for guns and the value of the NRA. He uses these devices to simultaneously humanize and valorize the NRA as society's guardians, as well as demonize the political left. This bolsters the NRA's reputation, as well as promote gun rights.

Conclusion

The question, *How do various rhetors use exigency to persuade their audiences on the issue of gun violence?*, has been examined through Emma Gonzalez's "We Call BS" speech and Wayne LaPierre's speech at the CPAC conference. Both speeches center around the exigency of the Parkland shooting. However, their responses are in stark contrast to each other. As a survivor of the tragic event, Gonzalez creates an emotionally-charged speech meant to promote her fight for greater gun control; she centers her speech around the victims. On the other hand, as the CEO of the NRA, LaPierre pushes blame away from the organization; he spins a narrative, in which the NRA begins as a victim of the political left and eventually ends as the protectors of American ideals. He does this to justify the NRA's support of guns, arguing that the mass shooting provides further evidence that guns are required for protection. Both rhetors apply a variety of strategies, as a way of utilizing the same exigency to mobilize their audience. Both speeches illustrate how various rhetors can use and manipulate exigency, utilizing either Bitzer's or Vatz's schools of thought, to persuade their audiences towards their views on guns.

Word Count: 3994

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Appendix

Emma Gonzalez's Speech


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Florida student Emma Gonzalez to lawmakers and gun advocates: 'We call BS'

CNN Staff
Updated 9:14 PM ET, Sat February 17, 2018





Source: CNN


Florida student to NRA and Trump: 'We call BS' 11:40

(CNN) — Emma Gonzalez, a senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, addressed a gun control rally on Saturday in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, days after a gunman entered her school in nearby Parkland and killed 17 people.


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Below is a full transcript of her speech:

We haven't already had a moment of silence in the House of Representatives, so I would like to have another one. Thank you.

Every single person up here today, all these people should be home grieving. But instead we are up here standing together because if all our government and President can do is send thoughts and prayers, then it's time for victims to be the change that we need to see. Since the time of the Founding Fathers and since they added the Second Amendment to the Constitution, our guns have developed at a rate that leaves me dizzy. The guns have changed but our laws have not.

We certainly do not understand why it should be harder to make plans with friends on weekends than to buy an automatic or semi-automatic weapon. In Florida, to buy a gun you do not need a permit, you do not need a gun license, and once you buy it you do not need to register it. You do not need a permit to carry a concealed rifle or shotgun. You can buy as many guns as you want at one time.

I read something very powerful to me today. It was from the point of view of a teacher. And I quote: When adults tell me I have the right to own a gun, all I can hear is my right to own a gun outweighs your student's right to live. All I hear is mine, mine, mine, mine.

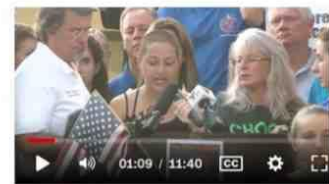
Instead of worrying about our AP Gov chapter 16 test, we have to be studying our notes to make sure that our arguments based on politics and political history are watertight. The students at this school have been having debates on guns for what feels like our entire lives. AP Gov had about three debates this year. Some discussions on the subject even occurred during the shooting while students were hiding in the closets. The people involved right now, those who were there, those posting, those tweeting, those doing interviews and talking to people, are being listened to for what feels like the very first time on this topic that has come up over 1,000 times in the past four years alone.

I found out today there's a website shootingtracker.com. Nothing in the title suggests that it is exclusively tracking the USA's shootings and yet does it need to address that? Because Australia had one mass shooting in 1999 in Port Arthur (and after the) massacre introduced gun safety, and it hasn't had one since. Japan has never had a mass shooting. Canada has had three and the UK had one and they both introduced gun control and yet here we are, with websites dedicated to reporting these tragedies so that they can be formulated into statistics for your convenience.

I watched an interview this morning and noticed that one of the questions was, do you think your children will have to go through other school shooter drills? And our response is that our neighbors will not have to go through other school shooter drills. When we've had our say with the government -- and maybe the adults have gotten used to saying 'it is what it is,' but if us



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News & buzz



Harry Enten: What the heck are Democrats doing?



Witness captures the moment of Dayton, Ohio mass shooting

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students have learned anything, it's that if you don't study, you will fail. And in this case if you actively do nothing, people continually end up dead, so it's time to start doing something.

We are going to be the kids you read about in textbooks. Not because we're going to be another statistic about mass shooting in America, but because, just as David said, we are going to be the last mass shooting. Just like *Tinker v. Des Moines*, we are going to change the law. That's going to be Marjory Stoneman Douglas in that textbook and it's going to be due to the tireless effort of the school board, the faculty members, the family members and most of all the students. The students who are dead, the students still in the hospital, the student now suffering PTSD, the students who had panic attacks during the vigil because the helicopters would not leave us alone, hovering over the school for 24 hours a day.

There is one tweet I would like to call attention to. So many signs that the Florida shooter was mentally disturbed, even expelled for bad and erratic behavior. Neighbors and classmates knew he was a big problem. Must always report such instances to authorities again and again. We did, time and time again. Since he was in middle school, it was no surprise to anyone who knew him to hear that he was the shooter. Those talking about how we should have not ostracized him, you didn't know this kid. OK, we did. We know that they are claiming mental health issues, and I am not a psychologist, but we need to pay attention to the fact that this was not just a mental health issue. He would not have harmed that many students with a knife.

And how about we stop blaming the victims for something that was the student's fault, the fault of the people who let him buy the guns in the first place, those at the gun shows, the people who encouraged him to buy accessories for his guns to make them fully automatic, the people who didn't take them away from him when they knew he expressed homicidal tendencies, and I am not talking about the FBI. I'm talking about the people he lived with. I'm talking about the neighbors who saw him outside holding guns.

If the President wants to come up to me and tell me to my face that it was a terrible tragedy and how it should never have happened and maintain telling us how nothing is going to be done about it, I'm going to happily ask him how much money he received from the National Rifle Association.

You want to know something? It doesn't matter, because I already know. Thirty million dollars. And divided by the number of gunshot victims in the United States in the one and one-half months in 2018 alone, that comes out to being \$5,800. Is that how much these people are worth to you, Trump? If you don't do anything to prevent this from continuing to occur, that number of gunshot victims will go up and the number that they are worth will go down. And we will be worthless to you.

To every politician who is taking donations from the NRA, shame on you.

Crowd chants, shame on you.



Now Playing Florida student to NRA...



Now Playing Florida student to NRA...

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If your money was as threatened as us, would your first thought be, how is this going to reflect on my campaign? Which should I choose? Or would you choose us, and if you answered us, will you act like it for once? You know what would be a good way to act like it? I have an example of how to not act like it. In February of 2017, one year ago, President Trump repealed an Obama-era regulation that would have made it easier to block the sale of firearms to people with certain mental illnesses.

From the interactions that I had with the shooter before the shooting and from the information that I currently know about him, I don't really know if he was mentally ill. I wrote this before I heard what Delaney said. Delaney said he was diagnosed. I don't need a psychologist and I don't need to be a psychologist to know that repealing that regulation was a really dumb idea.

Republican Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa was the sole sponsor on this bill that stops the FBI from performing background checks on people adjudicated to be mentally ill and now he's stating for the record, 'Well, it's a shame the FBI isn't doing background checks on these mentally ill people.' Well, duh. You took that opportunity away last year.

The people in the government who were voted into power are lying to us. And us kids seem to be the only ones who notice and our parents to call BS. Companies trying to make caricatures of the teenagers these days, saying that all we are self-involved and trend-obsessed and they hush us into submission when our message doesn't reach the ears of the nation, we are prepared to call BS. Politicians who sit in their gilded House and Senate seats funded by the NRA telling us



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nothing could have been done to prevent this, we call BS. They say tougher guns laws do not decrease gun violence. We call BS. They say a good guy with a gun stops a bad guy with a gun. We call BS. They say guns are just tools like knives and are as dangerous as cars. We call BS. They say no laws could have prevented the hundreds of senseless tragedies that have occurred. We call BS. That us kids don't know what we're talking about, that we're too young to understand how the government works. We call BS.

If you agree, register to vote. Contact your local congresspeople. Give them a piece of your mind.

(Crowd chants) Throw them out.



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Report Video Issue

Conservative Political Action Conference, Wayne LaPierre Remarks

Wayne LaPierre spoke at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). He spoke one week after a school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

Today

CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL ACTION CONFERENCE (CPAC)

WAYNE LaPIERRE

National Rifle Association

Executive Vice President & CEO

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00:00:27



Wayne R. LaPierre
WAYNE: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY. WE HAVE SERIOUS ISSUES THAT IMPACT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US. A WEEK AGO, WE WERE ALL HORRIFIED BY ANOTHER TERRIBLE TRAGEDY IN AN AMERICAN SCHOOL. EACH MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION MOURNS THE LOSS OF THE INNOCENT AND CONTINUES TO KEEP THEIR FAMILIES AND THAT COMMUNITY IN OUR PRAYERS. WE SHARE A GOAL OF SAFE SCHOOLS, SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS, AND A SAFE COUNTRY. AS USUAL, THE OPPORTUNISTS WASTED NOT ONE SECOND TO EXPLOIT TRAGEDY FOR POLITICAL GAIN. SOLOMON SKI WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD. THE BRAKE BACK A SPEED OF CALLS FOR MORE GUN CONTROL LAWS AND THE BREATHLESS NATIONAL MEDIA EAGER TO SMEAR THE NRA. THINK ABOUT THAT. IN THE MIDST OF GENUINE GRIEF, AND A VERY UNDERSTANDABLE PASSION AS MILLIONS OF AMERICANS SEARCHED FOR MEANINGFUL SOLUTIONS, WHAT DO WE FIND? CHRIS MURPHY, NANCY PELOSI, AND MORE, CHEERED ON BY THE NATIONAL MEDIA, EAGER TO BLAME THE NRA AND CALL FOR

EVEN MORE GOVERNMENT CONTROL. THEY HATE THE NRA. THEY HATE THE SECOND AMENDMENT. THEY HATE INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM. IN THE RUSH OF CALLS FOR MORE GOVERNMENT, THEY HAVE ALSO REVEALED THEM -- REVEALED THEIR TRUE SELVES. THE ELITES DO NOT CARE ABOUT AMERICA'S SCHOOLCHILDREN. IF THEY TRULY CARED, THEY WOULD PROTECT THEM. FOR THEM, IT IS NOT A SAFETY ISSUE. IT IS A POLITICAL ISSUE. THEY CARE MORE ABOUT CONTROL AND MORE OF IT. THEIR GOAL IS TO ELIMINATE THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND OUR FIREARMS FREEDOMS, SO THEY CAN ERADICATE ALL INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS. [APPLAUSE] WAYNE: WHAT THEY WANT ARE MORE RESTRICTIONS ON THE LAW-ABIDING. THINK ABOUT THAT. THEIR SOLUTION IS TO MAKE YOU, ALL OF YOU, LESS FREE. THEY WANT TO SWEEP RIGHT UNDER THE CARPET THE FAILURE OF A SCHOOL SECURITY, THE FAILURE OF FAMILY, THE FAILURE OF AMERICA'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM, AND EVEN THE UNBELIEVABLE FAILURE OF THE FBI. [APPLAUSE] WAYNE: THEY FANTASIZE ABOUT MORE LAWS STOPPING WHAT OTHER LAWS FAIL TO STOP. THE TRUTH IS, LAWS SUCCEED ONLY WHEN PEOPLE OBEY THEM. THAT IS WHAT THE LAW-ABIDING MAJORITY IN THIS COUNTRY PRACTICES. BUT ONCE AGAIN, SO MANY EXISTING LAWS WERE

PEOPLE IN THIS VIDEO



Wayne R. LaPierre
Executive V.P. and CEO
National Rifle Association

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POLITICIANS -- THEY ARE ALL MORE PROTECTED THAN OUR CHILDREN AT SCHOOL. DOES THAT MAKE ANY SENSE TO ANYBODY? [APPLAUSE] WAYNE: DO WE REALLY LOVE OUR MONEY AND OUR CELEBRITIES MORE THAN WE LOVE OUR CHILDREN? >> NO, NO. MR. LAPIERRE: CAN WE ANSWER THAT QUESTION HONESTLY? ANY OF US, CAN WE ANSWER THAT QUESTION HONESTLY, KNOWING THAT WE SURROUND AND PROTECT SO MUCH WITH ARMED SECURITY WHILE WE DROP OUR KIDS OFF AT SCHOOL, THAT ARE SO-CALLED GUN FREE ZONES, THAT ARE WIDE OPEN TARGETS FOR ANY CRAZY MADMAN BENT ON EVIL TO COME THERE FIRST? IN EVERY COMMUNITY IN AMERICA, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, PTA'S, TEACHERS UNIONS, LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, MOMS AND DADS -- THEY ALL MUST COME TOGETHER TO IMPLEMENT THE VERY BEST STRATEGY TO HARDEN THEIR SCHOOLS, INCLUDING EFFECTIVE TRAINED, ARMED SECURITY THAT WILL ABSOLUTELY PROTECT EVERY INNOCENT CHILD IN THIS COUNTRY. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: AND THAT HAS TO HAPPEN NOW. EVIL WALKS AMONG US. AND GOD HELP US IF WE DO NOT HARDEN OUR SCHOOLS AND PROTECT OUR KIDS. THE WHOLE IDEA FROM SOME OF OUR OPPONENTS THAT ARMED SECURITY MAKES US LESS SAFE IS COMPLETELY RIDICULOUS. IF

THAT IS TRUE -- JUST THINK ABOUT THIS -- IF THAT IS TRUE, ARMED SECURITY MAKES US LESS SAFE, LET'S REMOVE IT FROM EVERYWHERE. LET'S REMOVE IT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, FROM CAPITOL HILL, AND REMOVE IT FROM ALL OF HOLLYWOOD. [CHEERS] [APPLAUSE] >> TAKE DOWN THE WALL. MR. LAPIERRE: ANY AMERICAN SCHOOL THAT NEEDS IMMEDIATE PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION AND HELP WITH ORGANIZING AND DEFINING THE SOLUTIONS SHOULD CALL THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION'S SCHOOL SHIELD PROGRAM. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: AND WE WILL PROVIDE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE AND WE WILL ALSO PROVIDE IT ABSOLUTELY FREE TO ANY SCHOOL IN AMERICA. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: I WILL TELL YOU THIS, THAT IS MORE THAN ANYBODY AT THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE, OR NBC NEWS, OR "THE WASHINGTON POST" IS OFFERING. >> RIGHT. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: YOU KNOW WHAT, THE SHAMEFUL POLITICALIZATION OF TRAGEDY, IT IS A CLASSIC STRATEGY RIGHT OUT OF THE PLAYBOOK OF A POISONOUS MOVEMENT. IN MY THREE DECADES OF LEADING THE NRA, I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH A NUMBER OF DEMOCRATS WHO BELIEVE AMERICA TO BE THE GREATEST COUNTRY IN THE

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WORLD, BECAUSE OF OUR FREE MARKET CAPITALISM, AND BECAUSE OF OUR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES. BUT DURING THE LAST DECADE, THE OBAMA DECADE, MANY OF THOSE LEADERS HAVE BEEN FORCED OUT AS A TIDAL WAVE OF NEW EUROPEAN STYLE SOCIALISTS SEIZE CONTROL OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. [APPLAUSE] [BOOS] MR. LAPIERRE: OBAMA PROMISED A FUNDAMENTAL TRANSFORMATION OF OUR COUNTRY. AND YOU KNOW WHAT, IT BEGAN WITH HIS OWN NATIONAL PARTY, A PARTY THAT IS NOW INFESTED WITH SABOTEURS WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN CAPITALISM, DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE CONSTITUTION, DO NOT BELIEVE IN OUR FREEDOM, AND DO NOT BELIEVE IN AMERICA AS WE KNOW IT. OBAMA MAY BE GONE, BUT THEIR UTOPIAN DREAM, IT MARCHES ON. AND PRESIDENT TRUMP'S ELECTION, WHILE CRUCIAL, CANNOT TURN AWAY THE WAVE OF THESE NEW EUROPEAN-STYLE SOCIALISTS BEARING DOWN UPON US. I AM NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT BERNIE SANDERS. I MEAN, HE IS NEAR THE END OF HIS CAREER. BUT WHAT ABOUT KAMALA HARRIS, ELIZABETH WARREN, BILL DE BLASIO, ANDREW CUOMO, CORY BOOKER, CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, AND KEITH ELLISON? [BOOS] MR. LAPIERRE: THEY ARE NOT DEMOCRATS IN THE MODE OF JOHN F. KENNEDY OR TIP O'NEILL. THEY HIDE BEHIND LABELS LIKE

PROGRESSIVE TO MAKE THEIR SOCIALIST AGENDA MORE PALATABLE. AND THAT IS TERRIFYING. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: AND THAT SHOULD TERRIFY EVERY CITIZEN WHO VALUES THE AMERICAN IDEAL IN THIS COUNTRY OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY. THEY POLITICIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, THEY WEAPONIZE THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, THE EPA, PERHAPS CRIPPLE THE FBI AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, AND SEIZED AND EMBEDDED LEADERSHIP IN ALL OF THEM TO ADVANCE THEIR AGENDA. ABSOLUTE CONTROL IN EVERY CORNER OF OUR GOVERNMENT IS THEIR ULTIMATE DREAM. THESE INTELLECTUAL ELITES, THEY THINK THAT THEY ARE SMARTER THAN WE ARE. THEY THINK THAT THEY ARE SMARTER THAN THE REST OF US. AND THEY THINK THEY ARE BETTER THAN WE ARE. THEY TRULY BELIEVE IT, AND YOU KNOW IT. THE PRIVILEGED AND THE POWERFUL, THEY THINK THEY DESERVE TO BE IN CHARGE OF EVERY LEVER OF POWER. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT, THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION MAKES IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THEY ARE NOT IN CHARGE. WE, THE PEOPLE, ARE IN CHARGE OF THIS COUNTRY. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: BUT WASHINGTON, OH MY GOSH, THIS CITY, IT LIKES TO IGNORE THAT. OUR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SHROUDS EVERYTHING IN

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SECRECY, DRIVING INTO DARKNESS EVERY DIRTY MEMO, AND EVERY DIRTY INSTITUTIONAL SECRET AND MEMORY, IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL SECURITY. BUT WHEN THE LEAKS COME, AS SO OFTEN OCCURS IN THE LIGHT OF DAY, IT REVEALS NOTHING ABOUT THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY AND IT REVEALS EVERYTHING ABOUT THE CORRUPTION OF THOSE IN POWER. [APPLAUSE] THAT IS BECAUSE IN A CAPTIVE SOCIETY THE LOSS OF TRANSPARENCY RESULTS IN THE LOSS OF TRUTH. THEY HAVE ELIMINATED SYSTEMS OF WRONGDOING IN THESE GREAT INSTITUTIONS. THERE IS NO STRONGER SUPPORTER OF OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT THAN THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION. MY GOSH, WE ARE ONE OF THE LARGEST LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, IF YOU LOOK AT OUR MEMBERSHIP. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: AND WE ARE PROUD OF THAT. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: EVERYWHERE I GO I GET A POLICE OFFICER COMING UP TO ME, THANKING ME AND SAYING, I AM A MEMBER OF YOUR ORGANIZATION, KEEP UP WHAT YOU ARE DOING. THERE ARE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF INCREDIBLE MEN AND WOMEN AT THE FBI. THESE ARE HONORABLE, DECENT, HARD-WORKING PEOPLE, AND

THEY ARE DEDICATED TO KEEPING OUR COUNTRY SAFE EVERY SINGLE DAY. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: AND WE ARE PROUD OF THEM AND WE THANK THEM. BUT AS WE HAVE LEARNED IN RECENT MONTHS, EVEN THE FBI IS NOT FREE OF ITS OWN CORRUPTION AND ITS OWN UNETHICAL AGENTS. LOOK, I KNOW YOU PROBABLY ALL SHARE THIS SENTIMENT, AND I GET PEOPLE TELLING ME FROM COAST-TO-COAST, THEY SHAKE THEIR HEADS WHEN THEY SAY IT TO ME, I CAN UNDERSTAND A FEW BAD APPLES IN AN ORGANIZATION AS LARGE AS THE FBI, BUT WHAT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND IS WHY NOBODY AT THE FBI STOOD UP AND CALLED B.S. ON ITS ROGUE LEADERSHIP. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: I MEAN, REALLY, WHERE WAS THE SYSTEMIC AND REPULSION THAT SHOULD PROTECT EVERY POWERFUL INSTITUTION THAT SERVES US? THE LOWEST RANKING MARINE KNOWS TO RESIST AN UNLAWFUL ORDER. THE RANK AND FILE IN EVERY POWERFUL INSTITUTION MUST POLICE ITS OWN LEADERSHIP. BUT STILL, TOO MUCH OF TODAY'S WASHINGTON, NO ONE SPEAKS OUT. NO ONE CHALLENGES AUTHORITY. EVERYONE KEEPS THEIR MOUTH CLOSED AND THEIR HEADS DOWN, AND THAT IS EXACTLY HOW SOCIALISTIC SOCIETIES FUNCTION. WHEN LEADERS DO WHATEVER THEY WANT, WHEN RESISTANCE AND REPERCUSSION

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DISAPPEARS, AND WHEN THE FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPT OF MORAL BEHAVIOR IS EXPUNGED, THE STATE RULES THE DAY. AND ANYONE WHO ATTEMPTS TO RESIST IS SMEARED RIGHT INTO SUBMISSION. [APPLAUSE] YEP. YOU KNOW IT. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: YES, THE ART OF THE SMEAR. WE LIVE IN THE SOCIALISTIC AGE OF THE ART OF THE SMEAR. IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE TRUE. IT JUST HAS TO STICK SOMEWHERE, ANYWHERE. IT IS DESIGNED TO DEGRADE, DESTROY, AND IT IS ALL OVER THE NATIONAL MEDIA TO SERVE THEIR AGENDA. AND SOCIALISM IS A MOVEMENT THAT LOVES THE SMEAR. RACIST, MISOGYNIST, SEXIST, XENOPHOBIC, AND MORE. THESE ARE THE WEAPONS AND VITRIOL THESE CHARACTER ASSASSINATIONS SCREAM TO PERMANENTLY HANG ON THEIR TARGETS AND CREATE A GROWING SEGMENT OF VICTIMS. BECAUSE SOCIALISM FEEDS OFF MANIPULATED VICTIMS. YOU NAME THE GROUP, AND THEY WILL FIND A WAY TO TURN THEM INTO VICTIMS. THEY KEEP THEIR MOVEMENT GROWING BY FINDING SOMEONE TO BE OFFENDED BY SOMETHING EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY. FROM THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT, TO BLACK LIVES MATTER, TO ANTIFA, THEY AGITATE THE OFFENDED, PROMOTE UNCIVIL DISCOURSE, AND IGNORE ANY SENSE OF DUE PROCESS AND FAIRNESS TO DESTROY THEIR ENEMIES. THE

ELIMINATION OF DUE PROCESS IS THE VERY GOLD STANDARD OF THE SOCIALIST STATE. IMAGINE THIS, AND THIS HAPPENED AND IT IS TRUE, IMAGINE TELLING AN ELDERLY COUPLE THAT BECAUSE THEY SOUGHT HELP TO DO THEIR TAXES, THAT THEY COULD NO LONGER EXERCISE THEIR FUNDAMENTAL SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHT -- THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT OBAMA DID. HIS ADMINISTRATION PROPOSED TO SOME SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS, WHO GRANTED FINANCIAL AUTHORITY TO A FAMILY MEMBER, FRIEND, OR FINANCIAL PROFESSIONAL, WAS BANNED FROM PURCHASING A FIREARM, NO QUESTIONS ASKED, JUST LIKE THAT. GOOD, LAW-ABIDING PEOPLE WERE AUTOMATICALLY, AND UNJUSTLY, DECLARED MENTALLY INCOMPETENT AND PUT ON A NEW GOVERNMENT LIST. AND OH, HOW SOCIALISTS LOVE TO MAKE LISTS, ESPECIALLY LISTS THAT CAN BE USED TO DENY CITIZENS THEIR BASIC FREEDOMS. AND NOW SOME PEOPLE ARE CALLING FOR A NEW LIST OF ANYONE, ANYONE WHO HAS SOUGHT MENTAL HEALTH CARE, TO DENY THEM THEIR SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS. LOOK, THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT AND YOU NEVER HEAR OF THIS ON THE NATIONAL MEDIA, SO I WANT TO SAY IT TO ALL OF YOU NOW AND I NEED YOUR HELP IN TELLING ALL OF AMERICA THIS BECAUSE IT IS THE TRUTH -- THE NATIONAL

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RIFLE ASSOCIATION ORIGINATED THE NATIONAL INSTANT CHECK SYSTEM. IT WAS OUR BILL. NO ONE ON THE PROHIBITED PERSONS LIST SHOULD EVER HAVE ACCESS TO A FIREARM, NO KILLER, NO FELON, NO DRUG DEALER. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: AND ANYONE WHO IS MENTALLY INCOMPETENT OR DANGEROUS TO SOCIETY SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE CHECK SYSTEM AND PREVENTED FROM GETTING THEIR HANDS ON A GUN. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: BUT WATCH WHAT I RELEASED THREE YEARS AGO, AND THE MEDIA MACHINE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, THEY SO CALLOUSLY AND COMPLETELY IGNORED IT. WATCH THIS. [VIDEO CLIP] MR. LAPIERRE: HERE IS WHAT THE MEDIA WILL NOT TELL YOU. THE NRA HAS FOUGHT FOR 20 YEARS TO PUT THE RECORDS OF THOSE MENTALLY INCOMPETENT INTO THE CHECK SYSTEM, AND UNTIL THE POLITICIANS DEMAND THEY ARE SUBMITTED, KILLERS WHO ARE PROHIBITED FROM OWNING FIREARMS WILL WALK INTO GUN STORES AND PASS EVERY BACKGROUND CHECK THEY TAKE. SO IF THEY REALLY WANTED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, THE MEDIA WOULD LEAD EVERY NEWSCAST WITH A REMINDER THAT THE NAMES OF MILLIONS OF A VIOLENT FELONS, CRIMINAL GANG BANGERS, AND ADJUDICATED MENTALLY INCOMPETENT AND DANGEROUS PEOPLE

ARE MISSING FROM THE BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM. BUT NO ONE GETS RATINGS BY TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT HOW TO STOP MASS KILLERS. SO THEY DO NOT REPORT THAT 38 STATES HAVE MET LESS THAN 80% OF THEIR FELONY CONVICTIONS TO THE SYSTEM, LEAVING MORE THAN 7 MILLION FELONY CONVICTIONS IN THE DARK. THEY DO NOT TELL YOU THE TRUTH. INSTEAD, THE ONLY THING THE AVERAGE AMERICAN HAS HEARD ABOUT BACKGROUND CHECKS IS THE ABSOLUTE FALLACY THAT WHAT WE NEED IS MORE. THE SYSTEM IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE RECORDS WITHIN IT, AND THE RECORDS ONLY GET SUBMITTED IF THE POLITICIANS DEMAND IT. WHAT DO THE OREGON KILLER, THE WDBJ KILLER, THE CHARLESTON CHURCH KILLER, THE SANTA BARBARA KILLER, THE MARYLAND MALL KILLER, THE L.A. AIRPORT KILLER, THE D.C. NAVY YARD KILLER, THE AURORA MOVIE THEATER KILLER, THE TUCSON KILLER, THE VIRGINIA TECH KILLER, AND BOTH FORT HOOD KILLERS HAVE IN COMMON? EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM PASSED A BACKGROUND CHECK. IF YOU PASS A NET AND THE FISH SWIM THROUGH THE HOLES, YOU DO NOT NEED A BIGGER NET, YOU NEED TIGHTER HOLES. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO A BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM THAT IS MISSING THE NAMES OF MILLIONS OF PROHIBITED PEOPLE, THE POLITICIANS DO

NOT WANT TO FIX IT. THE BEST-KEPT SECRET IS THE NATIONAL INSTANT CHECK SYSTEM WOULD NOT EXIST AT ALL IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE NRA. IT IS TRUE. BACK IN THE 1990'S, PRESIDENT CLINTON FORCED PASSAGE OF A MANDATORY WAITING PERIOD ON EVERY HANDGUN PURCHASE IN AMERICA, NOT A BACKGROUND CHECK, A WAIT. THE NRA SAID AS SOON AS THE TECHNOLOGY WAS AVAILABLE, THEIR WAIT HAD TO BE REPLACED BY AN INSTANT BACKGROUND CHECK DONE BY THE DEALER AT THE POINT-OF-SALE. NRA SUPPORTED IT, GOT THE VOTES, AND GOT IT PASSED. WE DEMANDED AN HONEST SYSTEM THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE SURE THAT GOOD PEOPLE CAN PURCHASE FIREARMS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, A SYSTEM THAT CATCHES VIOLENT FELONS, THE ADJUDICATED MENTALLY INCOMPETENT AND DANGEROUS, AND EVERY OTHER PROHIBITED PERSON RIGHT AT THE POINT-OF-SALE, WHERE THEY WOULD BE PROSECUTED FOR A FEDERAL FELONY. BUT THEY AREN'T. WHAT HAS HAPPENED INSTEAD IS ONE OF THE GREATEST FAILURES IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN LEADERSHIP. IN 2010, ROUGHLY 80,000 PROHIBITED PEOPLE COMMITTED A FELONY BY TRYING TO BUY A GUN. JUST 44 WERE PROSECUTED FOR IT. DOES THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD NUMBER TO ANYBODY? WHEN YOU HEAR

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POLITICIANS WHO WILL NOT FIX THE BROKEN SYSTEM, TALK ABOUT EXPANDING IT, DO NOT BUY IT. DEMAND WHAT WORKS. PUT ARMED SECURITY IN EVERY STORE, FIX THE BROKEN MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM, ENFORCE THE FEDERAL GUN LAWS AGAINST EVERY CRIMINAL ON THE STREET. PROSECUTE DANGEROUS PEOPLE WHEN THEY SHOW UP TO BUY A GUN, AND FOR GOD'S SAKE, PUT EVERY PROHIBITED PERSON IN THE SYSTEM. THAT IS WHAT COMMON SENSE GUN LAWS LOOK LIKE. [APPLAUSE] MR. LAPIERRE: YOU KNOW, THE WHOLE DISCUSSION OF THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND THE GUN ISSUE IN THIS COUNTRY HAS BECOME SO DISHONEST IN THE NATIONAL MEDIA, AND SO DISHONEST AMONG POLITICIANS, THAT YOU CAN BARELY STAND IT. THAT IS NOT A NEW VIDEO, AS I SAID. I HAVE SAID FOR YEARS, FOR YEARS, AND I HAVE BEEN IGNORED BY THE SAME OPPORTUNISTS WHO DO NOT GIVE A DAMN, YET YOU SEE THEM ON TV EVERY DAY WHINING AWAY. HERE IS WHAT I SAID ON CBS WAY BACK IN 1993, THAT WAS 25 YEARS AGO. >> ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF COMPUTERIZING THE MENTAL HEALTH RECORDS OF PEOPLE? >> YOU BET. >> CAN WE JOIN HANDS ON THAT AND GO TO CAPITOL HILL RIGHT NOW? MR. LAPIERRE: HERE IS THE REAL

CAPITOL HILL RIGHT NOW? MR. LAPIERRE: HERE IS THE REAL TRAGEDY, CHARLES SCHUMER SHOOK MY HAND TO GET ALL THE MENTAL HEALTH RECORDS INTO THE SYSTEM, THEN HE WENT BACK TO CAPITOL HILL AND YOU KNOW WHAT HE DID? ABSOLUTELY NOTHING. HOW MANY LIVES MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAVED IF HE HAD KEPT HIS PROMISE? THEY ARE LIARS TO THE CORE AND I WILL MAKE THIS PRODUCTION RIGHT NOW. [APPLAUSE] A YEAR FROM TODAY MANY OF THOSE RECORDS MAY STILL NOT BE IN THE SYSTEM, NOT IF SOME OF THESE POLITICIANS AND THEIR MEDIA ENABLERS HAVE THEIR WAY. [APPLAUSE] INSTEAD, WHAT THEY WILL DO IS THEY WILL KEEP COMING AFTER THE NRA. AND WHEN ANOTHER MONSTER SLIPS THROUGH THE CRACKS, THE VERY CRACKS THAT THEY HAVE ENABLED IN THE SYSTEM, AS THE RECORDS OF PROHIBITED PERSONS REMAIN OUT OF THE DATABASE – IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN. HERE IS SOMETHING THAT WE MUST BE CAREFUL OF AS WE GO FORWARD, WE ALL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL THAT THIS DOES NOT BECOME A RUNAWAY TRAIN. WHAT IF ALL OF YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS, PERHAPS YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR DOCTOR, YOUR PRESCRIPTION INFORMATION, DO WE REALLY WANT ALL OF

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THAT ON A GOVERNMENT LIST AND IN THE GOVERNMENT DATABASE? >> NO. MR. LAPIERRE: HERE IS ANOTHER ONE, A MILITARY VETERAN COMES -- GOES TO HIS LOCAL V.A. , COMES HOME, TELLS THE DOCTOR HE HAS TROUBLE SLEEPING AT NIGHT, OR ANYBODY WHO SHARES NIGHTMARES WITH A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL, THEY ALL BECOME POTENTIAL TRIGGERS THAT SOMEBODY, SOMEWHERE COULD BE DEFINED AS A MENTAL HEALTH BARRIER TO OWNING A FIREARM. I EVEN HEARD A TELEVISION ANCHOR RECENTLY SUGGEST THAT PEOPLE SEEKING TO BUY A FIREARM SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED FIRST. I MEAN, INTERVIEWED FIRST, WHO IS GOING TO CONDUCT THAT INTERVIEW AND WHAT WILL THEY ASK? THAT IS THE CHALLENGE THAT WE AS A FREE SOCIETY FACE. HOW DO WE CREATE A STEP ALONG THE WAY CALLED DUE PROCESS THAT PROTECTS THE INNOCENT, LAW-ABIDING PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY FROM BEING FALSELY ACCUSED, POLITICALLY ABUSED, AND PERMANENTLY STIGMATIZED UNJUSTLY? COME ON, SOCIALISTS OPPOSE ALL OF OUR MOST FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS ENSHRINED IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS. THEY DO NOT LIKE FREE SPEECH ANYMORE THAN THEY LIKE THE SECOND AMENDMENT. THEY LIKE ONLY LIMITED SPEECH,

CONTROLLED SPEECH, COULD JOIN BY -- CONTROLLED BY THEM THROUGH SAFE ZONES WHERE THEY CAN SHAME THE OUTSPOKEN OR RIOT TO SHUT THEM UP. IF YOU STILL THINK THAT WE HAVE FULL FIRST AMENDMENT FREEDOM IN THIS COUNTRY, TRY GOING RIGHT NOW AT THE BERKELEY AND SPEAKING OUT IN FAVOR OF CONSERVATIVE CAUSES, OR EVEN THE SECOND AMENDMENT. [APPLAUSE] THIS THROWING SOCIALIST STATE DREAMS OF MANIPULATING SCHOOLCHILDREN TO SQUEEZE AND SQUEEZE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR PARENTS. THEY WILL BE ASKING YOUR KIDS IF MOM AND DAD SPANK THEM OR WHAT THEY FEED THEM FOR DINNER. THEY WILL WANT TO KNOW WHAT TV SHOWS YOU WATCH, WHAT MAGAZINES OR NEWSPAPERS YOU READ, AND DO MOMMY AND DADDY OWN A GUN? AND ALL THAT PRIVATE INFORMATION WILL BE ENTERED INTO THAT ULTIMATE LIST, THAT CLOUD OF DATA STORAGE, THAT COULD NOT CARE LESS ABOUT DUE PROCESS AND CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOM AND YOUR PRIVACY AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. AND THEN IT IS JUST A SHORT HOP TO THE SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF OUR MOST BASIC FREEDOMS IN THIS COUNTRY. AND YOU ALL KNOW WHAT THEY ARE, BUT LET ME SAY THEM -- FAMILY, FAITH, INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND SELF DESTINY, A

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FREE MARKET ECONOMY, PATRIOTISM, RESPECT FOR OUR NATIONAL FLAG AND A NATIONAL -- AND NATIONAL ANTHEM, PERSONAL LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL. [APPLAUSE] GOING BACK A DECADE OR MORE, THESE ESSENTIAL FREEDOMS AND THESE ESSENTIAL VALUES HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY AND SADLY RIDICULED AND DISRESPECTED AND DIMINISHED IN THIS COUNTRY AND IT WILL NOT TAKE LONG IF WE STAY ON THE PATH WE ARE ON, TO ERASE THEM COMPLETELY. THAT IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS NEW SOCIALIST WAVE IN AMERICA. YOU KNOW, I HEAR A LOT OF QUIET IN THIS ROOM AND I SENSE YOUR ANXIETY. AND YOU SHOULD BE ANXIOUS. AND YOU SHOULD BE FRIGHTENED. IF THEY SEIZE POWER, IF THE SO-CALLED NEW EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS TAKE OVER THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE, AND GOD FOR BID THEY GET THE WHITE HOUSE AGAIN, OUR AMERICAN FREEDOMS COULD BE LOST AND OUR COUNTRY WILL BE CHANGED FOREVER. >> YOU ARE RIGHT. MR. LAPIERRE: AND THE FIRST TO GO WILL BE THE SECOND AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION. HISTORY PROVES IT. EVERY TIME, IN EVERY NATION, IN WHICH AT THIS POLITICAL DISEASE RISES TO POWER, ITS CITIZENS ARE REPRESSED THEIR FREEDOMS ARE DESTROYED, AND THEIR FIREARMS ARE BANNED AND CONFISCATED. IT IS ALL BACKED

IN THIS COUNTRY BY THE SOCIAL ENGINEERING AND THE BILLIONS OF PEOPLE LIKE GEORGE SOROS, MICHAEL BLOOMBERG, TOM STEYER AND MORE. AND GLEEFULLY PROMOTED BY THOSE WHO HAVE RISEN TO POWER IN THE SO-CALLED NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA, AND SEIZED CONTROL OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO SPREAD THEIR PROPAGANDA. THEY DO NOT TELL US NEWS. YOU ALL KNOW IT AND PEOPLE KNOW IT ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES, THEY SAY IT TO ME EVERY DAY. THEY DO NOT TELL US NEWS, THEY TELL US WHAT WE NEED TO THINK. THAT IS THE WAY IT IS THESE DAYS. ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES, A COMMUNIST MANIFESTO IS ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASSIGNED TEXTS. KARL MARX IS THE MOST ASSIGNED ECONOMIST. AND THERE ARE OVER 100 CHAPTERS AT MANY UNIVERSITIES AND STUDENTS ARE EVEN EARNING ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR PROMOTING SOCIALIST CAUSES. IN TOO MANY CLASSROOMS, ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES, AND I KNOW THAT YOU THINK ABOUT THIS WHEN YOU DECIDE WHERE YOU WILL SEND YOUR KIDS TO SCHOOL AND YOUR KIDS THINK ABOUT IT TOO, THE U.S. CONSTITUTION IS IGNORED, U.S. HISTORY IS PERVERTED, AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT FREEDOM IN THIS COUNTRY IS DESPISED. YOU KNOW, SOME PEOPLE OUT THERE THINK THAT THE NRA

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SHOULD JUST STICK TO ITS SECOND AMENDMENT AGENDA AND NOT TALK ABOUT ALL OF OUR FREEDOMS. BUT REAL FREEDOM REQUIRES PROTECTION OF ALL OF OUR RIGHTS. AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT ISN'T WORTH ITS OWN WORDS IN A COUNTRY WHERE ALL OF OUR OTHER INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS ARE DESTROYED. [APPLAUSE] SO I PROMISE YOU THIS -- THE NRA WILL NOT ONLY SPEAK OUT, WE WILL SPEAK OUT LOUD OR AND WE -- LOUDER AND WE WILL SPEAK OUT STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE. [APPLAUSE] WE WILL DO IT THROUGH NRA TV AND OUR MEDIA OPERATIONS, WHICH WILL EXPAND TO REACH A GROWING AUDIENCE OF AMERICANS THAT ARE LOOKING ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY FOR THE TRUTH. THEY ARE GOING TO DO IT WITH A STRONG VOICES LIKE DAN BERTINO AND OTHERS WHO ARE ENGAGING IN NEW PROGRAMMING TO MAKE OUR MESSAGE JUST AS ACCESSIBLE AS NBC, THE NEW YORK TIMES, AND THE REST OF THE SO-CALLED NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA. [APPLAUSE] LET'S BE CLEAR, WE ARE NEVER TALKING ABOUT AN ARMED RESISTANCE AGAINST THE SOCIALIST CORRUPTION OF OUR GOVERNMENT. WE ARE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT A RESISTANCE ARMED WITH THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS IN OUR COUNTRY. [APPLAUSE] [CHEERS] THE GENIUS OF

THOSE DOCUMENTS, THE BRILLIANCE OF AMERICA, OF OUR COUNTRY ITSELF, IS ALL OF OUR FREEDOMS ARE FOR EVERY SINGLE CITIZEN. AND THERE IS NO GREATER PERSONAL, INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM THAN THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS, THE RIGHT TO PROTECT YOURSELF, AND THE RIGHT TO SURVIVE. [APPLAUSE] IT IS NOT BESTOWED BY MAN, BUT GRANTED BY GOD TO ALL AMERICANS AS OUR AMERICAN BIRTHRIGHT. [APPLAUSE] SO I CALL RIGHT NOW TODAY ON EVERY CITIZEN WHO LOVES THIS COUNTRY, AND WHO TREASURES THIS FREEDOM, TO STAND AND UNFLINCHINGLY DEFENDED THE SECOND AMENDMENT, THE ONE FREEDOM THAT PROTECTS US ALL IN THIS COUNTRY. [APPLAUSE] AND I REFUSE TO LEAVE THIS STAGE UNTIL I SAY ONE MORE TIME THAT WE MUST IMMEDIATELY HARDEN OUR SCHOOLS. EVERY DAY. [APPLAUSE] EVERY DAY YOUNG CHILDREN ARE BEING DROPPED OFF AT SCHOOLS THAT ARE VIRTUALLY WIDE OPEN, SOFT TARGETS FOR ANYONE BENT ON MASS MURDER. IT SHOULD NOT BE EASIER FOR A MADMAN TO SHOOT UP A SCHOOL THAN A BANK OR A JEWELRY STORE, OR SOME HOLLYWOOD GALA. SCHOOLS MUST BE THE MOST HARDENED TARGETS IN THIS COUNTRY. AND EVIL -- [APPLAUSE] AND EVIL MUST BE CONFRONTED IMMEDIATELY WITH ALL NECESSARY

FORCE TO PROTECT OUR KIDS. [APPLAUSE] I SAID FIVE YEARS AGO, AFTER THAT HORRIBLE TRAGEDY IN NEWTOWN, AND I WISH -- OH GOD, I WISH MORE HAD HEEDED MY WORDS. SO LEAN IN, LISTEN TO ME NOW, AND NEVER FORGET THESE WORDS -- TO STOP A BAD GUY WITH A GUN, IT TAKES A GOOD GUY WITH A GUN. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [APPLAUSE] THANK YOU. THANK YOU. (music) [APPLAUSE]

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EE/RPPF

For use from May/November 2018

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Extended essay - Reflections on planning and progress form

Candidate: This form is to be completed by the candidate during the course and completion of their EE. This document records reflections on your planning and progress, and the nature of your discussions with your supervisor. You must undertake three formal reflection sessions with your supervisor: The first formal reflection session should focus on your initial ideas and how you plan to undertake your research; the interim reflection session is once a significant amount of your research has been completed, and the final session will be in the form of a viva voce once you have completed and handed in your EE. This document acts as a record in supporting the authenticity of your work. The three reflections combined must amount to no more than 500 words.

The completion of this form is a mandatory requirement of the EE. It must be submitted together with the completed EE for assessment under Criterion E. As per the 'Protocols for completing and submitting the Reflections on planning and progress form' section of the EE guide, a mark of 0 will be awarded by the examiner for criterion E if the RPPF is blank or the comments are written in a language other than that of the accompanying essay.

Supervisor: You must have three reflection sessions with each candidate, one early on in the process, an interim meeting and then the final viva voce. Other check-in sessions are permitted but do not need to be recorded on this sheet. After each reflection session candidates must record their reflections and as the supervisor you must indicate the month that the reflection session took place, the candidate's year of DP study at that time and initial this form.

First reflection session

Candidate comments:

Originally, my paper was history-based and related to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. However, I faced difficulty in forming strong arguments and a coherent paper for this topic. Hence, I changed the subject of my paper to Language and Literature and decided to write about the rhetoric used surrounding the issue of gun violence. I had been extremely fascinated with this topic, an issue extremely prevalent in the news today, ever since the walk-out protest held at my school against gun violence. However, one challenge I faced was deciding which gun speeches to analyze for my paper. I initially debated between three speeches: Emma Gonzalez's Parkland Speech, Wayne LaPierre's C-PAC Speech, and Obama's gun control speech. All three speeches were rhetorically rich, but I eventually settled on commenting on Gonzalez's and LaPierre's speech, as they both were centered around the Parkland shooting but had different responses to it. I found myself extremely interested in analyzing the devices used to produce opposing arguments to the same incident.

Month:

DP year (1 or 2):

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**Interim reflection**

Candidate comments:

Upon thorough analysis, I learned about the huge impact that a speaker's appearance and surroundings have on creating a certain impression and atmosphere for the audience; I also realized how allusions, such as the Supreme Court case *Tinker v. Des Moines*, can have many implications and can significantly contribute to the speaker's purpose. However, one challenge I faced was structuring my introduction. I was having difficulty in building a solid foundation for these two speeches that was based on the knowledge and expertise of past rhetors. After doing some research, I resolved this issue by basing my paper on the idea of exigency, or urgency, in the issue of gun violence. I centered my paper around how two speeches had very different responses to the same exigency of the Parkland shooting. This allowed me to introduce schools of thought from two rhetors, Lloyd F. Bitzer and Richard E. Vatz. It led me to refine my research question, specifying the focus of the paper on exigency in the gun debate. Furthermore, my supervisor recommended connecting my conclusion to the two rhetors in my introduction.

Month: DP year (1 or 2): **Final reflection - Viva voce**

Candidate comments:

Overall, I gained a lot of knowledge through the analysis of two contrasting speeches. Not only did I learn how to handle writing an analysis paper of such length and rigor, but I also understood the application of different forms of diction and figurative language on a real-world controversy. By reading two opposing speeches, I have gained a higher understanding of the gun debate and comprehend the main factors that polarize these two sides- language -and prevent a logical solution from being reached. Hence, this exploration reminded me to be conscious of the source of and the techniques used in a piece of writing prior to forming my own judgements about an issue. In the future, I would like to analyze a different set of text types related to the gun debate, such as articles from politically opposing news sites, or analyze speeches from different presidents on the issue.

Month: DP year (1 or 2):

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**Supervisor comments:**

Supervisor: By submitting this candidate work for assessment, you are taking responsibility for its authenticity. No piece of candidate work should be uploaded/submitted to the e-Coursework system if its authenticity is in doubt or if contradictory comments are added to this form. If your text in the box below raises any doubt on the authenticity of the work, this component will not be assessed.

Having taught this student before serving as her Extended Essay supervisor, I am not at all surprised by the quality of work this final product represents. She originally wanted to write a History EE, but her topic proved to be difficult to research. While she was able to find resources, they were nearly all in Serbian. Very few texts on her prior topic have been translated. So, after analyzing the political language surrounding the national gun control issue last year in class, she changed her EE topic. The student knew she was a bit behind schedule by changing topics, but she stepped up to the task. She then became interested in how different parties involved in the Parkland tragedy were discussing the case. As a high school student, this issue is important to her. She says that the most interesting part of her research was discovering that opposite sides of a political stance can use the same rhetorical devices to persuade their audience, and how she learned that sometimes the commonalities are more frequent than the differences. She said the hardest part for her was paring down her analysis. Her first draft was nearly double the maximum word limit, so she struggled deciding which points of her argument were the strongest. Her intrinsic motivation pushed her to meet all of her deadlines and produce the high quality of work that has come to be expected of her throughout her entire Diploma Programme. I am glad I had the opportunity to work with her on this project.



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