Robespierre on Trial

*the general questions:*

*How much violence is justified in achieving a better society? Was the Terror necessary to carry out the ideals of the French Revolution or did the Terror betray the ideals of the French Revolution? Was Robespierre an evil tyrant or an idealist?*

We will be conducting a mock tribunal to assess Robespierre’s guilt and determine whether he acted in the best interests of France. You will be given a role, please write and speak from the position of that role. You will have one opportunity to speak and one opportunity to listen, because we will be conducting two large “fish bowl” discussions.

In order to formulate your argument, you will need to use

* the material in the Reign of Terror packet
* your class notes
* your textbook reading
* The material in the Second Stage of the French Revolution packet

You will be producing a **position statement,** which will explain your beliefs. Please support your position with evidence from the materials. Also feel free to criticize the views of the other side.

You position statement must be:

* **Typed**; Times New Roman 12 point font; single-spaced.
* Include at least three quotations: one must be from Robespierre himself and one must be from the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen*.
* Include two other pieces of evidence, which can be paraphrased or summarized.
* Please share with Ms. Colllins ([noracollins5@gmail.com](mailto:noracollins5@gmail.com)) and Ms. Liu (christina.y.liu@gmail.com)

Preparing your statement:

1. Who are you? Describe yourself.
2. What did your character think of France under the Old Regime? What did s/he think of Louis XVI’s absolute power? The tax structure? Voting by Estate, not person? People being able to buy government offices or judgments in court cases?
3. Was your character influenced by Locke’s ideas of democracy? Rousseau’s ideas of natural goodness? Britain’s limited monarchy, where the king had to share power with Parliament?
4. What did your character think of the Tennis Court Oath, which formed the National Assembly, where people vote by head, not by Estate? What did s/he think of the Declaration of the Rights of Man?
5. What does your character think of the Reign of Terror and Robespierre?
6. What are your *three* most compelling arguments? For or against Robespierre?

6. What evidence are you going to use? Remember to use quotations from both the Second Stage and the Reign of Terror packets.

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| author + title | quotation | in your words . . . |
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7. What are some of fallacies in the other side’s arguments? How could you criticize the other side’s arguments?

Start writing your position statement:

Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself

Paragraph 2: Tell the story of the French Revolution from your point of view

Paragraph 3: Present the arguments and evidence for your side.

Paragraph 4: Point out fallacies in the other side’s arguments and present

contrary evidence.

Paragraph 5: Conclude by summarizing your evidence and thank your audience.

Checklist for position statement

\_\_ Starts with an introduction

\_\_ Tells the audience how s/he feels about the Old Regime.

\_\_ Tells the audience how s/he feels about the *Declaration of the Rights of Man* and the

National Assembly?

\_\_ Might mention Enlightenment philosophers

\_\_ Tell audience how s/he feels about the Reign of Terror

\_\_ Quotes Robespierre

\_\_ Quotes the *Declaration of the Rights of Man.*

\_\_ Uses one other quotation from one of the packets.

\_\_ Makes THREE clear arguments.

\_\_ Points out holes in the other side’s logic.

\_\_ Has a strong ending.