

Why not Imagine?

I. Introduction

- A. Attention Getter: I am sure that if you have been watching the Republican National Convention you have heard a lot about how George Bush is a good leader and the Democratic candidate for president, John Kerry does not pass muster. Well I cannot really say, nor am I sure if anyone can say, who will be the better president; but in either case I hope he is an imaginative leader who can take our country into a new, exciting future where I can be proud to be an American.
- B. Thesis statement: A good leader needs to have a vision and for that vision to inspire an entire country, it needs imagination.
- C. Preview: A leader with an imaginative vision must refuse to do business as usual, be in touch with his people, and set goals that unify.

II. Body

- A. When you hear the term “the old boy system” what do you think of?
 - 1. Stagnation
 - 2. Corruption
 - 3. Corruption is the result of an overly ambitious person who was not raised with a firm foundation of moral values.
 - 4. To avoid corruption from influence a leader must have a high level of self confidence.
- B. A leader must be an individual first.
 - 1. A leader must know him/herself.
 - a. Morally right (Lincoln quote of “being on God’s side”)
 - b. Not prejudiced or afraid of social criticism
 - 2. People elect an individual to represent them.
 - 3. Leader must grab the imagination of the people. Like a character in a book or on stage, a leader must be the champion of the people.
 - 4. In order to follow the values of his family and community a leader must have his finger on the pulse of the people.
- C. In 1987 President Reagan was faced with a bill that if signed into law would help the small farmer keep their farms but would essentially hurt big business which was buying up and putting out of business the small farmer.
 - 1. Reagan remembered where he came from (small town USA)
 - 2. Leader should get out and meet the people; not just trust advisors (example of Lili`uokalani’s tour).
 - 3. To put it in the context of our upcoming presidential election, the leader of the people, by the people, for the people must come from the people.

III. Conclusion

- A.** In 1961 John F. Kennedy reinforced his concept of the new frontier and promised to put a man on the moon by the end of the decade. This showed a vision and imagination seldom seen in leaders of today. And do you know what? We did put a man on the moon in 1969. And it should stand as a testament to us that since the Apollo program of the 1960's and 70's we have not reached farther than our own planet.

- B.** Where is the imagination? And it doesn't have to be the presidential election. What about our school? Are we going to continue to debate such issues as dress code or driving to school? Where is the imagination, I ask you?

- C.** I challenge everyone here to reach out beyond the common issues and stop asking why and start asking, why not?