Persuasive Speech: " Is Society Becoming Too Dependent on Technology and Losing Human Connection?

Location: College of the Sequoias, Visalia

Chairperson:
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CHECK IN: 9:00 am   **CONTEST BEGINS: 9:15 am**

ELIGIBILITY:
Eligibility is limited to individuals. No team entries will be allowed.

SCOPE OF CONTEST:

Background:
From smartphones and AI assistants to online learning and remote work, technology has become deeply integrated into our daily lives. While these advancements offer convenience, efficiency, and innovation, many argue that they come at a cost: the decline of face-to-face interactions, critical thinking, and authentic human connection.

Expectations:
Students will prepare a persuasive speech and take a stance on the issue. Students should address questions such as, but not limited to:
- Are we relying too much on technology at the expense of real-world social skills?
- Has text messaging and direct messaging (DM'ing) replaced meaningful conversations?
- Is automation stifling human creativity?
- Or is technology simply evolving the way we connect, learn, and interact in a positive way?

Audience:
Your speech is aimed at an audience of peers, college students, and educators who are well-informed about current technological trends specifically in education and the workplace.

Length:
The speech should be between 4-5 minutes.

Format:

- **Introduction**: Start with an engaging hook to capture the audience's attention, introduce the topic, and clearly state your position.

- **Body**:

    - **Supporting Arguments**: Develop three to four key points that support your stance. Use evidence, anecdotes, studies, or expert opinions to support each argument.

    - **Addressing Counter Arguments**: Identify possible counterarguments to your position and offer thoughtful rebuttals, showcasing your ability to engage with opposing views.

- **Conclusion**: Recap your main arguments and reinforce your position. Close with a powerful statement or question that encourages the audience to think deeply about the issue.

Evaluation Criteria:

- **Clarity and Coherence**: The clear articulation of your position and the logical structure of your arguments with strong and relevant supporting evidence.

- **Counterargument Management**: Your ability to effectively anticipate and address opposing viewpoints.

- **Presentation Skills**: The preparedness and effectiveness of your delivery, including clarity of speech, engagement with the audience, and non-verbal communication.

- **Adherence to Time Limit**: Your efficiency in covering all relevant aspects of the topic within the given timeframe of 4-5 minutes.

Equipment and materials

Prepare your speech script in advance for practice but aim to deliver your speech as naturally as possible. You may use notecards or an outline as you give your speech. If student is using a visual aide, the presentation must be saved onto a USB/flash drive.