

**Final Speech Assignment:
“This I Believe”**

This final speech invites you to participate in a nation-wide movement that has been going on since the 1950s. During World War II, the famous radio broadcaster Edward R. Murrow was struck by the disillusionment, suffering, and uncertainty caused by the war. The national environment was similar to ours today in that the world was war-weary and suffering economically, spiritually and emotionally. When Murrow returned from covering the bombings in London, he instituted a segment on his program entitled “This I Believe.” People from all over the world, from every walk of life and occupation, read their essays on the air detailing a core belief or value that sustained them in times of trouble. Many of these essays were collected into several editions of books entitled *This I Believe*.

For your final speech, brainstorm your beliefs, values (need not be religious), questions and try to determine a core belief or value that has sustained you and will sustain you in the years to come. Read some of the sample essays provided in my shared folder. Once you determine the belief, decide how you can best present it to the class in a 4 to 5 minute speech. Use the techniques that we have studied to develop your idea (quotes, analogies, anecdotes, personal experience, etc) to write an essay that you will deliver to our class as a speech. Employ rhetorical devices to make your speech dynamic and memorable. This will be a manuscript speech.

If you are so inclined, submit your speech to the NPR Web site and try to have your essay published.

I would like to make our own class book that I will give you on our final exam day. If anyone is artistic and would like to make a cover for our book, please volunteer.

**Fondly,
Ms. MH**

***Adapted from and used by permission, Peggy Walsh, District Coordinator for English, Council Rock School District.**