

## Discourse for Change



Students in Mrs. Jones 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies Honors class delivered persuasive amendment speeches on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Each student was assigned an amendment to research. As they investigated their amendment, the students learned the reasons why past political figures argued for the constitutional revisions.

For example, amendment 26 lowered the voting age to eighteen. Originally, you needed to be 21 to vote. However, the argument stated if a person is old enough to go to war, then they should be old enough to have a say in choices of our country.

Today, we often take for granted the rights we enjoy. It was interesting to learn why these changes emerged. Did you know there once was a poll tax to vote? If you could not pay the tax, then you were unable to cast a ballot. When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, amendment 25 was created outlining a plan of succession should the president die, resign, be incapacitated, or removed.

Every student went away a little more knowledgeable, thanks to these interesting speeches.