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Abstracts from the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day

Held at Northeastern State University

04. Liberal Arts

01. Communication

04.01.01 “My College Education Has Come From My Participation in the Forensics Team”: An Examination of the Skills and Benefits of Collegiate Forensic Participation

Copeland, Kristopher *Northeastern State University*

James, Kendrea *Northeastern State University*

This qualitative study explored the educational benefits and skills that students perceive they develop by participating in forensics. Qualitative interviews were conducted with 19 students that were in the process of competing in speech and debate. Participants discussed multiple benefits of participating in forensics, such as improving skills in public speaking, communication, organization and structure, networking, time management, group work, and increasing knowledge and broadening worldview. Additionally, participants explained how the skills developed in forensics related to educational and professional experiences. The findings suggest forensic educators should effectively promote the skills and benefits developed in the activity with colleagues, administrators, and outside stakeholders.

04.01.03 An Analysis of Richard Nixon’s Ethical Failure

Binnings, Corrine *Cameron University*

Corrine Binnings Cameron University An Analysis of Richard Nixon’s Ethical Failure The purpose of this research was to analyze Nixon’s ethical failure as an act of volition by examining his actions, highlighting the implications of his actions, and discussing his actions from an ethical standpoint. Nixon authorized the burglarizing and wiretapping of the offices of the Democratic National Committee and later attempted to cover up his involvement. So wide spread was the impact of Nixon’s actions that the incident became known as the Watergate Scandal. Comparing Nixon’s actions with the tenets of moral and ethical theorist, this research proves that Nixon’s actions were willful(volitional). An analysis of Nixon’s actions, based on theories of ethics and facts presented by historians and scholars, shows that Nixon intended to use his executive power to cover up and avoid punishment for his unethical acts. These actions were volitional because there was a clear choice between achieving his desires ethically and achieving them unethically; he chose to take the unethical route. When viewed in light of theories on ethical and moral behavior, Nixon’s actions show a disregard for ethics and an abuse of his post as president. When leaders deviate from the moral requirements of their office, there are serious implications for society and for the offices they hold.