

HK Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 Persuasive Speech

Introduction

I. Attention Getter: I like to call Hong Kong my second home because of the experiences

and the memories I've cherished with my parents, travelling there often. The tall
skyscrapers, beautiful landscape, bustling culture, and - most importantly to me -
the

delicious food are all what makes Hong Kong my favorite travel destination.
However,

Hong Kong is much more than that.

II. Motivation for Listening: Hong Kong is officially called Asia's World City because it's

the financial and trade center of Asia, thanks to its strategic location. I'd like to direct
your attention to this map... (brief pause). Notice how Hong Kong is a vital asset to

China due to its proximity to China and direct access to the Pacific Ocean, meaning Hong

Kong serves as the import and export hub of that area. However, China has taken

advantage of this... Hong Kong's autonomy is under attack. What many of you may not
know is that the U.S. actually plays a vital role in this situation to intervene, which I'll
go

into more detail later.

III. Establishing Credibility: In preparation for this speech, I've used my personal

experience of visiting Hong Kong regularly and my extensive research into this issue.

IV. Thesis Statement: With Hongkongers still fighting for their autonomy, Congress should encourage the President of the United States to support and sign the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019.

V. Preview of Speech: First, I will give an overview of the history and the current situation.

Then, I will give my reasons to sign the bill. After, I'll analyze the opposing viewpoints and refute them. Lastly, I'll present my call to action.

Transition to body of speech: Now, I'd like to give a definition of the U.S. - Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, as it will serve as the foundation of my argument today.

Body:

I. Definition: The Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 is a relatively unknown, yet very important Act. It essentially outlines the United States' special treatment of Hong Kong as a separate territory from China with regards to trade and finance.

II. Brief History: Handover Ceremony and event timeline.

- Handover Ceremony on July 1, 1997.
- Explanation of the One country, two systems.
- Chan Tong-kai murder case that started protests.

- Extradition bill introduced in March, withdrawn on September by Chief Executive Carrie Lam in response to violent protests.

III. Current Situation: According to BBC News, the most recent violent protest happened at the Chinese University of Hong Kong on November 12th, with many more protests still going on today.

IV. Establishing the Problem: Explanation of HK Human Rights and Democracy Act of

2019. ○ Bill proposed on June 13th by Senator Marco Rubio to amend the existing Hong

Kong Policy Act of 1992, in support of Protecting Hong Kong's right to autonomy according to section 102 of the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992.

- Enjoys bipartisan support by many members of the House and Senate, including influential leaders such as Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Senator Marco Rubio who is the sponsor of the bill.

V. Analysis and Research: China has repeatedly violated numerous articles of The Basic

Law. ○ Indirectly, because China controls Hong Kong's Police Department.

- Police Brutality, violating Article 28 (which protects Hong Kongers from

excessive use of force) and Articles 27-38 (which protect Hong Kongers' right and freedom to protest).

- Lack of proper training and deliberate rage of the police.
- Tear gas deployed at will almost every hour, every day, injuring innocent bystanders often, including children.
- According to BBC News, an innocent man was teargassed getting his lunch.
- According to Quartz News, an officer deliberately drove his motorcycle into a group of protestors.

VI. Analysis and Research: This has led to many injuries and, most recently, the first significant death as a result.

- According to The Guardian, a protestor had been shot by an officer just last week, marking the first time the police used live rounds on protestors.
- According to NBC News, unfortunately, on November 9th, the first death occurred. Alex Chow, 22 year old student at The University of Hong Kong and prominent activist, died after police used tear gas on a multi-story garage, which made him and other protestors, visually disabled. He then fell to his death.

VII. Analysis and Research: China has repeatedly violated article 22, which states that China

should not interfere with Hong Kong's internal affairs.

- According to Reuters, 12,000 Chinese troops in Hong Kong.
- According to The Guardian, Last Saturday (November 16), Chinese Army troops actually moved in, marking the first official interference of China into Hong Kong affairs.
- A local journalist asked one of the Chinese Army members for their intentions and they said, "We volunteered! Stopping violence and ending chaos is our responsibility. We are spreading positive energy!"
- Mobilizing thousands of troops and armored vehicles is not spreading positive energy.

Transition to opposing viewpoints: Now, I will analyze the opposing viewpoints. This first one I see is actually a problem that concerns many other topics, such as wars in the Middle East.

Establishing Opposing Viewpoints:

I. Analysis and Research: U.S. shouldn't be involved in the affair that only concerns China and Hong Kong since China technically owns Hong Kong.

- U.S. Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 actually gives U.S. right to do intervene, regardless of China's stance according to section 101 stating that the U.S. should

take action to maintain HK's autonomy before, on, and after the Handing Over of

1997 (2019 bill would allow U.S. to impose sanctions on China if passed).

II. Analysis and Research: This bill would allow the U.S. to impose sanctions on China for depriving Hong Kong's autonomy, but the local government of Hong Kong is also to blame

- According to the Guardian, Carrie Lam was voted during a pro-Beijing restricted election, so she is essentially reporting to China.
- Refute: Still, the root cause of the problem is China, so targeting China could help expose the corruption of the local government.

Transition: Now that you have a clear idea of some of my opponents claims, and why they are not substantiated, I would like to address what you can do to make a difference.

Call to Action:

I. Analysis and Research: If signed, this bill allow the U.S. to take stronger action than is allowed by the existing Policy Act of 1992.

- Sanction officials who threaten HK's autonomy through asset blocking, for example

II. Analysis and Research: Letter to Senator Marco Rubio

- Will be printed and distributed the day of my speech.
- Letter is attached to this document.

Transition to conclusion: Now, I'd like to recap what I've gone over so that we get an

overarching sense of this issue.

Conclusion:

I. Summary of Main Points:

- Hong Kong's autonomy is under attack from China.
- The protests are still happening and the U.S. has the power to intervene.
- The bill, if signed, would allow the U.S. to take stronger action against China.
- The bill will be sent to the President soon.

II. Reiterate Call to Action:

- So in support for me, and for us, as concerned citizens seeing these violent and deadly protests every week, I urge you to sign this letter and send it to Senator Rubio to show your support for Congress on this issue and Hong Kong.

III. Throwback to attention getter: Hong Kong is my second home, but it hurts to see the

current state of it now. I remember vividly when we narrowly escaped the protests at the

airport and, on the flight back home, I wondered if that could be the last time we could

relive those memories.

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