

## Arnold Schwarzenegger: 2004 Republican National Convention Address

### Erwartete Schülerleistungen

#### Leistungsfach- und Grundfachanforderungen:

1. *Describe Schwarzenegger's feelings when speaking in Madison Square Garden.*

This moment is very emotional for Arnold Schwarzenegger because all his memories about the time when he was a young immigrant in the US are coming back to him. He can still see himself taking the oath of the US citizenship and being incredibly proud of being an American. He sees his life as the incarnation of the American Dream, a dream that was fulfilled when he was accepted as citizen in the "ideal country".

2. *Explain why all these ancient and long forgotten memories come to his mind that night?*

That night, Schwarzenegger remembers the proud and incredible feelings of being a young American as well as being a Republican, which means the same to him. He has the same feelings for the Republican Party and for the United States of America. This has got the same dimension as far as his personal opinion about the United States is concerned. This may be subjective but nevertheless very emotional and touching.

3. *Analyse Schwarzenegger's fear of communism.*

Arnold Schwarzenegger had his first contact with communism in Austria when he was a little boy. The country was occupied by Russia and the inhabitants suffered under this tyranny. He was not allowed to look the Russian soldiers in the eye and he felt a permanent threat. He was afraid of being taken prisoner and being made a slave in the Soviet Union. He was constantly in fear of losing his family.

4. *Analyse Schwarzenegger's remarks about Austria and the role America played for him in the past.*

Schwarzenegger loves his mother country Austria but he always was convinced that he would search for another place to live and this place was from the very beginning America. At school he was daydreaming of the country of his dreams because he felt that in America he would be able to live his dreams and have the possibility to achieve everything he wished for.

#### Nur Grundfachanforderungen:

5. *Comment on Schwarzenegger's first experiences with the American presidential elections and how this influenced his whole life?*

When Schwarzenegger arrived in the United States the presidential election campaign had just begun and he watched the television debates between the two candidates. He didn't understand much but the way Nixon spoke impressed him and he swore that the Republican Party would once be his home. Schwarzenegger is a perfect example of an early immigrant who is highly motivated to be successful in the country of his dreams. He was led by emotions, but also by a strong will to achieve his aims. All these talents helped him to become the person he is today.

6. *Discuss Schwarzenegger's remark "Then I am a Republican." What does he mean by saying that and why has this persuasion influenced his whole political career in the United States.*

When listening to Richard Nixon he realized that the conviction and the spirit of the Republican Party stood for the spirit of the United States of that time. He knew that he had arrived where he always wanted to be. The Republican Party meant an additional strength that would help him to go wherever he wanted to go.

His political career was determined by this early decision of becoming a member of the Republican Party. From the very beginning he knew where to go and what to do. He got to know the right people and learnt to behave in a way that influenced his whole political life.

**Nur Leistungsfachanforderungen:**

5. *Comment on the sentence in line 5: "That is an immigrant's dream. It's the American Dream." What is understood by the "American Dream" in general and why is Schwarzenegger the personification of the "American Dream"?*

The "American Dream" – that is the famous career from dishwasher to millionaire. In the past, immigrants came to America to live their dreams of personal and religious freedom, of liberty and happiness.

That was also the case for Schwarzenegger. For him America was the country of boundless possibilities and personal success. He left Austria without any idea where he was going and without any money in his pockets but he was ready to do everything to make his dreams come true. That was the start of an incomparable career.

6. *You know that a US presidential candidate has to be born in the United States of America. Imagine Schwarzenegger would like to run for presidency and this law would have to be changed. Write a letter to the President of the United States on Schwarzenegger's behalf demanding a change of the law. Give reasons and do not only relate to facts of Schwarzenegger's life. Write at least 150 words.*

(schülerabhängig)

Bei den Antworten mit dem Vermerk (schülerabhängig) sind die eigene Meinung und das eigene Argumentationsvermögen des Schülers gefragt. Dies erfordert eine schlüssige und sachkundige Argumentation belegt mit Fakten aus dem bisherigen Lernstoff.

Die Akzeptanz der Antwort wird vor allem durch eine sachlogische und Faktenrichtige Bearbeitung geleitet.