

# **Proposal**

The RPI College Democrats present *Pistols at Dawn*, a satirical debate program.

## **Concept**

Cable news channels, due to their 24-hour nature, are desperate to fill time in any way possible. One way in which this time is filled is having two guests debate a topic which is prevalent in the news. One often finds that these debates have little content, sacrificing factual accuracy for emotional appeals, and little relevance, ignoring serious issues that directly affect the American people in favor of those that are meaningless to American life and get high ratings.

*Pistols at Dawn* is a satire of cable news debates. The show will be structured very much like a serious debate program. The guests will appear to be serious individuals who passionately believe in the positions they are defending. However, rather than debating topics of real importance, the guests will debate on ridiculous topics that no one would rightly consider debating. This allows the show's cast to speak in a gravely serious, acutely intelligent way about very silly topics, resulting in a buffet comedy gold on which the audience can feast.

*Pistols at Dawn* will be written and performed by members of the RPI College Democrats and the individuals they invite to appear on the program.

## **Format**

Each episode of *Pistols at Dawn* will open with three individuals seated at a table. The person seated in the center is the moderator for the episode. He or she will welcome viewers to the show, introduce the topic that will be discussed, and introduce the other two individuals as the guests who will debate the topic. Each debate participant will give a short speech supporting his or her side in the debate. After each side has spoken, the moderator will ask the guests questions, which the guests will then answer, until the debate is completed. Each episode will consist of either a single topic debated for thirty minutes or two topics debated for fifteen minutes each.

## **Topics**

An infinite number of topics for debate can potentially be drawn from current events for each episode of *Pistols at Dawn*. Some possible topics are listed below.

- Sending the American homeless to France
- Invading a foreign country of minor importance
- Creating walls between the US and its neighbors

- Changing the key of the national anthem
- Repealing the laws of gravity
- Changing of currency to an absurd standard
- Recognizing zombie rights
- Initiating the taxation of abortion
- Implementing a cultural embargo on Japan

### **Set Requirements**

The requirements for each episode of *Pistols at Dawn* will be minimal. The RPI College Democrats will provide the cast of three people, who will only require a backdrop, a table, and three chairs. It is likely that the set and camera setup used for the RPI TV program *The World This Week* will be adequate.

Thank you for considering the approval our program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin Randazzo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Austin Randazzo  
President, RPI College Democrats