

Debate Assignment

POINT VALUE: 250 points total, broken down as follows:

- 25 points for bibliography (includes only sources used in notes for debate). A team grade.
- 100 points for debate performance. An individual grade.
- 60 points for team notebook. A team grade.
- 25 points for notebook check approx two weeks prior to debates
- 40 points for attendance & behavior during **all** debates

GENERAL DIRECTIONS:

1. Four students to a topic, two pro and two con. Each side comprises a debate team. Please see instructor to form group of a variant size.
2. Each subject to be debated only once per class. Sign up for debate topic in class.
3. A minimum of 20 sources per debate team is required. Each team member to contribute to research and sign the bibliography attesting to participation.
4. At the conclusion of the debate, a notebook is to be submitted by each debate team and is to include: (1) a copy of the works cited page in MLA format (2) a table of contents and tab marks (3) typed copies of the opening and closing statements (4) research notes and information clearly marked with the source (this will be checked against the works cited) and initialed by each student to work with it. (5) a signed statement by each team member attesting to his/her participation.
5. A class day in the library to work on debates and investigate sources of information will be arranged to help in research.
6. Immediately prior to debates an in-class work day will be held to allow debate teams and groups to formalize strategy and plans.

7. Format:

- A. Clearly write issue on board and state to class. Issue format is: "Be it resolved that..."
- B. Take preliminary class vote. Moderator (a person outside of your group) will collect, count, and post.
- C. Moderator will call for opening statements by each side.
Approximately two minutes and no more than five minutes for each presentation. Prosecution opens, then defense. Each person in group of four will give either an opening or closing statement.
- D. Rebuttals with prosecution opening. Four rebuttals for each side, two to three minutes in length. May be adjusted by mutual agreement or dire need.
- E. Questions and pertinent comments from the class to be addressed to specific side or person. Two minutes maximum per response.
- F. Closing statement by each side. Prosecution again first.
Approximately three minutes for each pro and con.
- G. Final class vote. Moderator will collect, count, and post.
- H. Debate teams will shake hands.
- I. Each debate team to turn in notebook - one for each the pro and con side.

8. Sample Debate Schedule

Presentation of resolution and class vote: 2 min
Pro Open: 3 min
Con Open: 3 min
Pro statement: 2 min
Con rebuttal: 2 min
Con statement: 2 min
Pro rebuttal: 2 min
Pro statement: 2 min
Con rebuttal: 2 min
Con statement: 2 min
Pro rebuttal: 2 min
Class questions: 2 min/question, 20 min total
Pro Close: 3 min
Con Close: 3 min

9. Debate members will be graded on attendance, presentation (professional appearance, visuals), information, preparation, and sportsmanship.

Sample Topics include (but aren't limited to):

Drug Legalization
Abortion
Death Penalty
Immigration
Assisted Suicide

Health Care
Gun Control
School Uniforms
Teacher Tenure
Animal Testing

Climate Change
Net Neutrality
Justice Reform
Minimum Wage
Prostitution