

Political Policy Debates

Instructions for debate preparation:

We are using a modified version of parliamentary debate procedures to explore current topics that we've gotten familiar with through our study of government & the elections. The debates will take place during class, and will follow the format laid out below. Each group should prepare a "script" for each stage of the debate, which can be more or less memorized by the group member(s) responsible for that round. ***Remember:*** you are trying to convince the audience (your classmates and me) that your position is the correct one, using well-constructed arguments supported by strong evidence. You also need to focus on responding adequately to your opponents' primary arguments.

Procedure:

Opening Statement- PRO (1 minute)
CON (1 minute)

Primary Arguments- PRO (5 minutes)
CON (5 minutes)

5 minutes to plan rebuttals

Rebuttal- CON (5 minutes)
PRO (5 minutes)

Closing Statements- PRO (3 minutes)
CON (3 minutes)

At the conclusion of the debate, the class members not participating in the debate will evaluate each team's performance to determine a winner. I will be grading you as a group (based on the suitability of your arguments and supporting evidence) and individually (on the quality of your contribution to the debate). A detailed rubric will be used and will be available for preview on Jupiter by Saturday, Oct. 29.

Use the back of this sheet to outline a plan for your team's approach to the debate →

<p>Opening Statement Briefly summarize your position.</p>	
<p>Primary Arguments What are the main points you want to make, and what evidence supports them?</p> <p>Arguments should be clear and concise, and evidence should be reliable and irrefutable (when possible). Use of propaganda techniques may be appropriate.</p>	
<p>Rebuttal Anticipate counterarguments to your claims and prepare to refute them.</p> <p>You have to make some guesses here, but try to think of all the possibilities.</p>	
<p>Closing Statement Restate/rephrase why your position is right and why your opponent is wrong. Make your final statement count!</p>	