

## **Final Debate**

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For the final in this class, you will be required to debate one topic from the readings in this class with one student (or very rarely two other students). You must select two topics that you have an interest in debating and prepare both pro and con arguments for each topic (meaning that total you will have to prepare 4 different debate topics).

On the day of the debate, you will be given your topic and whether you will argue pro or con on the issue. Once given your topic, the debates will last ten minutes:

- 1 minute: Pro introduction
- 1 minute: Con introduction
- 1 minute: Pro rebuttal
- 1 minute: Con rebuttal
- 2 minute: Pro cross-examination and explanation of points.
- 2 minute: Con cross-examination and explanation of points.
- 1 minute: Pro concluding statements.
- 1 minute: Con concluding statements.

Your final debates will be worth 40 points of your final grade. The instructor will determine 35 points of your grade, and the other students in the class will determine 5 points of your grade.

The instructor will grade you on the following:

- Clarity of ideas.
- Clarity of language, including grammar, pronunciation, and proper word use.
- Organization of ideas.
- Response to points made by your opponent.
- Knowledge of the topic.
- Ability to answer questions.
- Confidence and poise.
- Research materials and notes on your topic.

The instructor will take notes on the debate and give you a final grade based on the above criteria. This will account for 35 points of your grade.

The other students will grade you based on the following questions:

- Were the debater's arguments easy to understand?
- Were the debater's arguments convincing?
- Were there arguments or ideas that the debater forgot or didn't use?
- Did the debater respond to the other debater's arguments well?
- Who do you think won the debate?

The other student will rate each question from 5 (very good) to 0 (very poor). Those scores will be averaged and account for 5 points of your final grade.

Debate topics will be chosen today. A practice group debate will be held in class on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Debate preparation and practice will be held in class on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

The final debates will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. All research materials will be due at the time of your debate.