

Debate Guidelines

Beginning on **W, 11-11** we commence our formal debates. Debates are worth **10% of your total course grade**. You and a small group of fellow students will be organized into teams representing opposing sides for each of the TEN debates. Each team is required to research and deliver a debate presentation in front of the class. Each debate team will be made up of **APPROXIMATELY 3 students per team; 6 total students per debate**.

Here is how the debates work

- Each debate group has approximately **15 minutes** to make their individual presentation. **Debate presentations** therefore take approximately **30 minutes TOTAL** of the overall debate
- The presentations will be followed directly by **15 minutes** of rebuttal
- Rebuttal will be followed directly by about **15-20 minutes** of class questions
- Following this, each team will be allotted approximately **1-2 minutes** to formally summarize their positions
- When the debate concludes, the class will vote on which side "won"

Tips to keep in mind

- Look up from what you are reading, make eye contact with your audience, try to speak to your audience, not your paper. Read from 3x5 cards, your outlines, or memorize your presentation
- One way to appear more "natural" is to actually **PRACTICE** your presentation...probably several times (some speech professors suggest practicing out loud **AT LEAST SIX TIMES** before delivering a speech/debate)

Here is what is REQUIRED of EACH DEBATER

- You are expected to treat other students with courtesy. Your presentation style should be formal—that is, well thought out, concise, and clear
- You are expected to dress and act professionally during your debate
- **EACH PRESENTER is REQUIRED to use AT LEAST ONE READABLE/VIEWABLE visual aid—a transparency, a poster, a power point presentation, video footage, a chart, a prop, whatever...you know the expression "a picture is worth a thousand words." It is very true, especially in a debate.**
- **EACH PRESENTER is REQUIRED to turn in a DETAILED typewritten summary of his or her debate presentation ON THE DAY OF THE DEBATE. The approximate length is approximately ONE to TWO double-spaced, TYPED pages**
- You **CANNOT** pass this class unless you participate in a debate. **NO EXCEPTIONS, NO EXCUSES!**

Here's how you will be graded

· You will be graded on the following **FIVE** criteria: (1) quality of outline; (2) quality of visual aid; (3) quality of presentation; (4) quality of rebuttal performance; (5) quality of Q&A performance. You get an "A" if you excel in **ALL FIVE** areas. You should **NOT** allow one person on your team to dominate the debate. It is your responsibility to engage in **ALL** facets of the debate (presentation, rebuttal, and Q&A).

****NOTE: You lose ONE full letter grade if you DO NOT turn in your typed outline THE DAY of YOUR debate**

Good websites to check out to help in your research:

- 1) [CQ Researcher](#)
- 2) [Opposing Viewpoints Research Center](#)
- 3) [Pro-Con.org](#)