

## Research/Debate Project

### Due Date:

### Research Paper

You and your opponent will research a controversial topic. Each person will write a **4 page** research paper (separately) that includes information about the affirmative (the pro) and the negative (the con) sides regarding your controversial issue. You are not taking a stand for one side or the other of the issue yet (that is for the day of the debate); you are simply stating the facts and opinions of each side. I expect your introduction to have a clear thesis statement and your body paragraphs need to include the following: clear topic sentences, concrete details with appropriate parenthetical citations, commentary, and concluding sentences. The paper does not need a works cited page; however, you must cite a minimum of 5 sources and these sources need to be identified through parenthetical citation. If an author of an article is known, his or her name should be included inside parentheses; if an author is not known, include the title of the article in quotation marks inside parentheses.

Examples: (Lennon) OR ("The Beatles are the Best Band Ever")

### Presentation and Debate

Each person will present his or her research to the class and then debate each other on the topic. For obvious reasons, one opponent must take the affirmative (pro) side, and the other partner will take the negative (con) side. Each opponent will receive one major grade for the research paper and a separate major grade for the debate/presentation.

### Debate Guidelines/Rubric

- 1 On the day of the presentation / debate, the student who researched the Affirmative side will deliver a 1-2-minute opening statement.
- 2 Afterwards, the student who researched the Negative side will deliver a 1-2-minute opening statement.
- 3 The **Affirmative** side speaker will pose a question or statement for his opponent to answer (30 seconds). The opposing student will have one minute to respond to the question or statement. The Affirmative side speaker will then have 30 seconds for rebuttal.
- 4 The **Affirmative** side speaker will pose a second question or statement for his opponent to answer (30 seconds). The opposing student will have one minute to respond to the question or statement. The Affirmative side speaker will then have 30 seconds for rebuttal.
- 5 The **Negative** side speaker will pose a question or statement for his opponent to answer (30 seconds). The opposing student will have one minute to respond to the question or statement. The Negative side speaker will then have 30 seconds for rebuttal.
- 6 The **Negative** side speaker will pose a second question or statement for his opponent to answer (30 seconds). The opposing student will have one minute to respond to the question or statement. The Negative side speaker will then have 30 seconds for rebuttal.
- 7 When the partners conclude their presentations and rebuttal, class members will ask **two questions to each side** (alternating sides). The speaker will have 30 seconds to answer the question, and no rebuttal will be allowed from the opposing side.
- 8 The Affirmative side will deliver a one-minute closing statement.
- 9 The Negative side will deliver a one-minute closing statement.

Students will not be allowed to debate unless they have a research paper completed. The following rubric will be used for the debate:

<b>1-2 minute opening statement</b>	10 points
<b>1<sup>st</sup> question for opponent</b>	10 points
<b>1<sup>st</sup> rebuttal for opponent</b>	10 points
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> question for opponent</b>	10 points
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> rebuttal for opponent</b>	10 points
<b>1<sup>st</sup> respond to opponent's question</b>	10 points
<b>2nd respond to opponent's question</b>	10 points
<b>1<sup>st</sup> audience question answered</b>	10 points
<b>2nd audience question answered</b>	10 points
<b>1 minute closing statement</b>	10 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>

### Suggestions

This is a formal presentation and debate. Watch your language, grammar, clarity of argumentation, validity of support, professional tone, and demeanor. Pay close attention to the Grading Rubric.

### Possible Topics

Sign-up for the topic as soon as you and your partner select one (I will provide a sign-up sheet). Only one pair of students will be allowed to research and debate each topic.

Affirmative Action	Legalization of Drugs
Animal Rights	Mac's vs PC's
Sports and Steroids	Minimum Wage
Beatles vs. Elvis	Nuclear Proliferation
Capital Punishment	Pledge of Allegiance in Schools
Censorship of _____	SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)
Education	School Uniforms
Computers in Schools	UFO's (Unidentified Flying Objects)
Environmental Protection	United Nations
Genetic Engineering	U.S. Involvement in Other Countries
Gun Control	(Choose Your Own)
Homelessness	
Immigration	
Income Tax Reform	