

## Debate Expectations

### Format:

On the day of your discussion, you will create a half-circle with the other members of your group and lead the class in the roundtable debate according to the following (flexible) format:

- 7.5 minutes - Arguments for Side 1 (including counter-arguments)
- 7.5 minutes - Arguments for Side 2 (including counter-arguments)
- 10-12 minutes - Open Debate for Both Sides
- 5-7 minutes - Questions/Audience Participation
- 1-2 minutes (Optional): Concluding Remarks

### Expectations:

- Each group member should make several (at least 2-3) positive contributions to each section of the debate. A positive contribution can include:
  - A major point for one side of the issue
  - A counterpoint for the other side of the issue
  - A clarifying question or question for further discussion
  - Adding additional support/evidence for another's point
- For the first half of the debate, as a group, you are expected to address 5-6 major points of the issue and examine them in depth, offering evidence, support, and potential counter-arguments. The point of this first half is to set your group up for the second half.
- For the second half of the debate, as a group, you are expected to go through some of these major points and analyze them side-by-side. Which points are more convincing? Does the evidence hold up?
  - The best way to do this is either splitting the group into two sides and having each side support its arguments OR (slightly more difficult) coming up with 4-5 main discussion points and discussing each of these points as a group
  - Although your group may come to the conclusion that you favor one side over the other, make sure to save any concluding remarks for the end of the debate. The open debate must still address both sides.
  - You are responsible for checking in with your group members and deciding which style of open debate you would like to hold. Make sure everyone knows and is prepared!
- Audience: expected to take discussion notes on both the style of the debate and the points being made for both sides. You will also have the opportunity to participate in the last part of the debate. Remember that you will be responsible for writing an observer's report.