

## **Government Debate Day Requirements**

A Debate Day is a time for *you* to discuss, question and answer some of the major issues in American society. In order for this to be *your* discussion, *you* must be knowledgeable of the topic at hand. My hope is to merely serve as a moderator and questioner on these days.

*You* are expected to participate in class in an intelligent and mature manner. You will be graded based upon the quantity and quality of your input. Please make note of the attached Rubric. You will be graded on your appearance, speech, conduct, knowledge and preparation.

Acceptable debate topics may be found on my webpage. Other topics may be approved upon request.

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### **During the course of the year, each student is expected to:**

1. Choose and research at least one current issue largely debated in American society.
2. Prepare an argument for either supporting a change or maintain the status quo.
3. Prepare an opening statement clearly outlining your stance on the issue
4. Prepare a typed-outline written by you that summarizes at least 3 primary reasons supporting your policy position on the issue.
5. Present a persuasive argument against an opposing viewpoint in front of the class.
6. Offer relevant rebuttals to criticism of one's chosen policy proposal.
7. Provide knowledgeable and relevant answers to questions regarding one's views.
8. Turn in all notes, papers, etc. used during the debate
9. Prepare a closing statement summarizing your stance on the issue

### **Assessment:**

10. 50 points for the debate performance
11. 25 points for a written outline

### **Format:**

12. Opening statement by both students identifying their stance on the issue.
13. Student A's 1<sup>st</sup> point, Rebuttal by Student B, Last word by Student A.
14. Student B's 1<sup>st</sup> point, Rebuttal by Student A, Last word by Student B.
15. Repeat as needed.
16. Closing Statement
17. Question & Answer

**Debate Day Rubric: Evaluator:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Score each student on a scale of 0-5 based upon the following criteria. A “5” means perfect – no flaws. A “0” means it was not done.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_

Score		Score
	<b>Opening statements</b> captured the attention of the audience, clearly stated the importance of the issue, and identified the speaker’s position.	
	The speakers’ statements were <b>supported by accurate and thorough research</b> including the use of statistics.	
	The speakers addressed the opponent and <b>consistently used gestures, eye contact, tone, volume, and enthusiasm</b> to keep attention.	
	All statements and body language were <b>respectful</b> and were in appropriate language.	
	The speaker was well rehearsed and addressed the audience and opponent with <b>minimal reliance on notes</b> .	
	The speaker demonstrated an <b>in-depth understanding</b> of the topic in depth and presented forcefully and convincingly.	
	All arguments were clearly tied to the main idea and <b>organized logically</b> .	
	All opposing arguments were countered with clear, relevant <b>rebuttals</b> .	
	<b>Closing statements</b> were effective and convincing.	
	The speaker was able to adequately <b>answer all questions</b> .	
	<b>Totals</b>	
<i>/50</i>		<i>/50</i>

**Notes or Observations**

**For The Teacher**

	Outline	
<i>/75</i>	<b>Totals</b>	<i>/75</i>

## Potential Debate Topics

1. Students should be required to pass a foreign language to graduate.
2. Schools should be closed on Veterans Day.
3. Women should not get the right to vote.
4. Euthanasia should be allowed.
5. School uniforms should be required.
6. Each school should have an armed security guard.
7. The legal drinking age should be lowered to 18.
8. School vouchers should be available to all parents.
9. All Americans should be required to perform one year of military service.
10. The commercial sale of meat should be illegal.
11. Abortion choice in any form should be illegal in all case except health risks.
12. Parents should be required to attend parenting classes before having a child.
13. Partial birth abortion should be illegal.
14. Students should be held legally responsible for bullying in schools.
15. Cyberbullying outside of school should be punished by the school.
16. The driving age should be raised.
17. Public prayer should not be allowed in schools.
18. Concealed weapons should be legal in all public places.
19. The government should not be allowed to monitor personal communications without a warrant.
20. Renewable forms of energy should be subsidized by the government.
21. America should deny foreign aid to countries that kill and sell items from endangered animals.
22. The Government should fund a space mission to Mars.
23. Capitalism is the best economic system.
24. Democracy is the best form of government.
25. Voting should be mandatory for all U.S. citizens of proper age.
26. The death penalty should be abolished.
27. Homework should be banned.
28. Grades in school should be abolished.
29. Progressive tax rates are unfair.
30. Teachers should not be allowed to contact students through social media.
31. The driving age should be lowered.
32. Violent video games should be banned.
33. Schools should not be allowed to track students.
34. Students should be required to pass algebra to graduate.
35. Affirmative action should be abolished.
36. Students should be able to leave school for lunch.
37. PE should be required of students throughout high school.
38. America should not give foreign aid to other countries.
39. The government should provide wireless service for everyone.
40. Smoking should be illegal.
41. People should be fined for not recycling.
42. Performance enhancing drugs should be allowed in sports.
43. Parents should be allowed to choose their baby's gender.
44. Animal testing should be banned.
45. Corporations should be allowed to donate money to political campaigns.
46. Drone attacks against specific targets are a necessary part of modern warfare.
47. All students should be required to perform one year of community service.
48. All students should take an online course.
49. All students should have an after school job.
50. A border fence should be constructed between US and Mexico.
51. Same sex marriage should be legal.
52. Single-gender schools are better for students.
53. The legal drinking age should be lowered.
54. Drugs should be legalized.
55. Women should be eligible for the draft.
56. The right to bear arms is a necessary constitutional amendment.
57. Giving preference based upon minority status should be illegal.
58. Intelligent design should be taught in science classes.
59. Fine arts should not be taught in school.
60. Extracurricular athletics should not be a part of the public school.
61. Every student should be required to take a performing arts course.
62. Year round school is a good idea for student learning.
63. High stakes state testing should be abolished.
64. In an era of funding cuts, fines arts should be cut before athletics.
65. Drug testing should be mandatory for high school sports.
66. Nuclear technology should be banned in all countries not currently possessing it.
67. Those suspected of terrorist activities should not have Constitutional rights.
68. The sale of human organs should be legalized.
69. The teaching of Creationism should be allowed in public schools.
70. Congress should have term limits.