**Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Debate Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**NEWS DEBATE ASSIGNMENT**

GOALS: To present a convincing oral argument using evidence within the time allotment, to use functional language related to agreeing, disagreeing, and showing contrasting opinions, listens to opponents and effectively makes counterarguments.

**Debate topics: Two positions per topic –*I agree completely (Affirmative Team) and I do not agree at all* (Negative Team)**

1. **Climate change is real and mostly caused by humans.**
2. **United States President Donald Trump should build his wall between the U.S. and Mexico.**
3. **The driver who caused the Humboldt crash should go to jail for the maximum amount of time possible.**
4. **The federal government of Canada should develop the oil sands and put in pipelines as it sees fit.**
5. **Britain made a good decision to leave the European Union (E.U.)**
6. **BitCoin is a legitimate currency.**
7. **Creating advanced artificial intelligence is a good idea for society.**
8. **We should all shift to driverless cars as soon as possible.**
9. **Canada should build a wall between itself and the United States.**
10. **Gaming should be a sport in the Olympics.**
11. **Quebec City deserves an NHL team more than Las Vegas.**

**Debate Process**

1. Each team lines up against each other, with active debaters facing opposite each other. All teammates not actively debating take notes on what the other team said so you can argue that point with them later.
2. First Affirmative Speaker- 1-2 minutes to introduce the topic and your team’s position.
3. First Negative Speaker- 1-2 minutes to introduce the topic and your team’s position, should also restate the opponent's viewpoint:
   1. Example:*"it is often said"* or *"many people assume that my esteemed opponent believes that"*
4. Second Affirmative Speaker- 1-2 minutes to disagree with your opponents and provide supporting evidence and explanation for your position:
   1. Example: *"on the contrary"* or *"on the other hand"*
5. Second Negative Speaker- 1-2 minutes to disagree with your opponents and provide supporting evidence and explanation for your position:
   1. "*for example"*or *"this is why"*
6. Break for Preparation Speaker- Three minutes to make any changes to concluding remarks (include rebuttal ideas). (Brainstorm time)
7. Negative Summary/Rebuttal (3rd) Speaker- Two minutes to conclude with your thesis and discredit your opponent’s ideas.
   1. Example *"therefore"* or "*as a result"* or  *"thus it can be seen"*
8. Affirmative Summary/Rebuttal (3rd) Speaker- Two minutes to conclude with your thesis and discredit your opponent’s ideas.
   1. *"therefore"* or "*as a result"* or  *"thus it can be seen."*

**Functional Debate Language List**

**Agreeing**  **Disagreeing**  **Contrasting opinions**

• I (absolutely) agree. • I’m sorry, but I can’t agree with that. • Yes, but on the other hand ...

• I agree completely. • I’m afraid I disagree. • That may be; however …

• On the whole, I agree. • That’s not how I see it (the situation). • I see your point, but …

• I see your point. • I don’t entirely agree. • Perhaps, but don’t you think …

• I couldn’t agree more. • The facts don’t support that position. • I agree to an extent, but …

• You have a point there.

**HOW TO START**

**Step One: Brainstorm and Develop Ideas**

* Share your ideas, assign ideas for each member to research and follow-up on – keep this brainstorm as a shared Google doc so nobody doubles up on the same idea, have ideas labelled under each speaker. Choose which role each person has in the debate (re-check debate process).

### Step Two: Structure the speeches

* **Introduction**– Who are you and what do you stand for?
* **Preview** – What are the points you are going to cover? (Thesis)
* **Rebuttal**– Unless you are the first speaker, you’d say “first lets take a look at what we heard from the previous speaker” and disagree with their points. Then you go no to make your own points – see below
* **Point One** – “Now onto my points”  
  *Topic*  
  *Explanation* (the reasoning – why is your point true and why does it mean your overall position is right?  
  *Evidence*(facts, analogies, examples, imagery or authority to support your reasoning)
* **Point Two** – Topic, Explanation, Evidence
* **Point Three** – Topic, Explanation, Evidence
* **Reminder** – remind the audience of the points you have covered (Restate thesis)
* **Last appeal for convincing your audience**

### Step Three: Prepare Counter-Arguments

* Together as a group brainstorm what the other group’s arguments might be and how you can argue against that idea in the debate, hopefully with evidence

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| --- | --- | --- |
| TOPIC | ARGUMENT & FACT OR QUOTE | SOURCE (NAME & DATE) |
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**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_ DEBATE RUBRIC /20**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Prepared, Organized and Clear**:  Clear and orderly presentation, notes are well prepared |  |  |  |  |
| **Use of Arguments:**  Reasons are given to support viewpoint, arguments are convincing. |  |  |  |  |
| **Use of Examples and Facts:**  Examples and facts are well researched, chosen and properly used. |  |  |  |  |
| **Use of Rebuttal:**  Arguments made by the other teams are responded to and dealt with effectively. |  |  |  |  |
| **Presentation Style:**  Tone of voice, use of gestures, eye contact and level of enthusiasm are convincing to audience, rules of the debate are followed |  |  |  |  |