

## **Debate Assignment**

### ***Making a Position Presentation (worth 80 points)***

Pick a specific question or social problems claim to debate within the general topic assigned for the day. This must be approved by Pattie.

Develop two or three positions on the question, depending upon the number of people in the group. Each person picks a position and they will develop that position individually. Each person has 15 minutes to present their position.

Presentation of your position can be done in any of the following ways. Pick a way on the basis of the argument and your goal to convince your audience, not for the “azzle-dazzle” factor.

- Straight argument, presented by reading and/or speaking directly, in person to the class. This should have an introduction, stating the position, at least three points supporting the position and a summary of the argument at the end.
- Narrative or story-telling that also makes the points of argument but using case study or personal story in order to do so. Again it must be clear what the position is and what the points of argument are.
- Illustration and artwork with straight argument or narrative - same idea but using PowerPoint or overhead illustrations. If you want this to come with pre-recorded narrative, see Pattie before doing this so we can work out the technology.
- Pre-recorded DvD of the above that is no more than the 15 minutes and is original. (Please see Pattie first).

Presentation is important. You should be convincing. You should keep the interest of your audience. You should consider the dynamics of the room with the computers and plan accordingly. You should be knowledgeable, but this should be more than a presentation of facts. You are trying to persuade the audience to your position not merely educate them. Keep in mind what you learned about social problems claims theory. You want to be concise in your position. You want to show the audience how they can resolve this issue. You want to be clear about who or what is to blame and how changing something will resolve this issue. If your position is that the claim you are debating is NOT SOCIAL or NOT A PROBLEM, then you must demonstrate in your argument why it is personal or why the *status quo* is not harmful. If you know of an authority or celebrity spokesperson who has articulated your position, quote them, refer to their work and so forth.

After all three presentations are completed, the audience will ask questions of the panel. Responses to the questions will be part of the presentation grade.

**A SUCCESSFUL PRESENTATION will clearly present the position, the points of argument and the conclusion in a manner that is easy to follow and is convincing.**

**A SUCCESSFUL PRESENTATION will demonstrate a knowledge of the topic, but does not have to be researched in the sense of a term paper (you should state sources, but you do not have to document sources for every argument you make).**

**A SUCCESSFUL PRESENTATION will demonstrate a knowledge of social problems claims-making theory and will either make a convincing argument regarding the change that needs to occur in order to create social change or will make a convincing argument that the problem is NOT social or that the *status quo* is not harmful (NOT A PROBLEM).**

## **Debate Assignment (page 2)**

### ***Using the Textbook as Source***

You are encouraged to read the chapter listed next to your topic in the syllabus (NOTE: Economics has been added to the syllabus, see Chapter 2 as source). While you are not limited to the book, it is perfectly okay to quote the book in your presentation. Please note it clearly, as you would any other source.

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### ***Writing the Final Exam Question (worth 20 points)***

Each group will write a test question for the final regarding the topic. The question should be submitted in writing by the beginning of the next class period after your presentation is made. It should be discussed and approved by the group members before submitting and all group members must sign the question in order to get any points.

The question should have 4 multiple choice answers. Please put the correct answer in the “D” position.

The question should accurately reflect the presentations made on the topic and should clearly state the general topic and the specific issue debated in the question. So it should begin something like:

“According to the education debate made in class regarding whether teachers are not paid enough,  
...”

**A SUCCESSFUL QUESTION will have 4 choices, clearly have the right answer in the “D” position and will accurately reflect the class presentations.**

Pattie reserves the right to re-write any question or add questions regarding any presentation to the final exam.

**YOU MUST SIGN THE HARD COPY OF THE QUESTION BEFORE IT IS TURNED INTO PATTIE.  
FAILURE TO DO SO MEANS YOU WILL NOT GET THE 20 POINTS.**

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### **Class Participation Extra Credit**

As noted on the syllabus, up to 25 points can be earned in extra credit for exceptional class participation. Please note that asking good questions of panels is an excellent way to earn these points. I will be paying attention to who asks questions and the quality of the questions.