

You have been challenged to participate in a classroom debate or create a three page (900 word) persuasive essay. To be successful in this activity and achieve a satisfactory grade you should observe the following guidelines and/recommendations:

**For the debate:**

Gather and utilize factual evidence that supports your position.

Reference your sources as you present your argument (“According to X it has been found that...”).

**Pro side** will begin with an **opening statement** such as *“In this debate our position is true because of A, B and C”* (As this is an opening statement specific details are not included - these details are left to the topic presenters). Con side will then offer their opening statement (2-5minutes each).

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
(opening and closing presenter)

**Pro side** then offers their first presentation of a **specific detail** that supports their position. Sides alternate until all presenters have had an opportunity to share their ideas. (2-5minutes each)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Both sides will be give time (5-10 minutes) to prepare **rebuttal arguments**.

**Con side** begins by offering a rebuttal to each argument (to the best of their ability for 2-5minutes each) in an effort to refute (disprove) the opposing team’s statements. The rebuttal presenters should actively take notes as the opposing team presents.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Con side** offers a closing statement in the form of a reiteration of the opening statement (“We believe our position to be true because of A, B and C.

**For the paper:**

You may choose any of the topics listed on the debate topic information sheet. Create a **three page (900 word) persuasive essay** that clearly defines an affirmative, negative or equally balanced (50/50) argument that supports your position(s) with factual evidence.

You may include your opinion, however, the majority of the paper should be supported by **reverencing factual information** gathered from reputable resources (i.e. message boards on the Internet are not a reputable source of information).

**Final Note:** Failure to adhere to these guidelines may (probably will) result in a reduced grade.