

Debate activity

On Wednesday May 7th and Monday May 12th our class will hold team-based debates focused on these:

Position A: Indigenous ways of knowing *should* count as science.

Position B: Feyerabend's principle that "Anything Goes" is overall a good way to characterize science.

Position C: Western science marginalizes other ways of knowing in an unjust and coercive way.

Position D. Scientific objectivity is a myth.

More specifically, your group will argue either FOR or AGAINST one of the above positions.

You will need to prepare your key arguments, along with evidence to back them, and meet with me to discuss. When we meet, I will ask you to deliver your opening argument (see below) and your expectations for what opponents will say. Email me to set up a time to meet in person. Meetings **must take place before May 1st**. You will be asked to revise your key arguments in light of my comments.

On the day of the debate, everyone must be on time. There will be two debates each day on May 7th and one debate on May 12th. When you are not debating, then you are a judge. Laptops, phones, and notes will not be allowed for anyone during the debate. The only exception to this is that debaters may bring an outline of their debate in the form of bullet points written on no more than three 4x6 inch index cards.

*** *On the day of the debate*

If you are arguing for a position, you are the FOR team (and if against, then you are the AGAINST team). The plan for May 7th (and May 12th) is as follows:

Beginning of class

Debate begins promptly at 10:46am.

1. FOR team presents their main arguments in **4 minutes**. Suggested format:

- Begin with a Hook such as an alarming fact, quick anecdote, a poll, a powerful quote, etc.
- Give background info on issue, define terms, set the stage
- State your main claims
- Provide reasons (ideally a variety of evidence) to support your main claims

2. AGAINST team presents their main arguments in **4 minutes**. Same suggested format as above.
3. Prepare to ask questions. **2 minutes**. Teams decide who will ask what questions for the crossfire.
4. Crossfire (Q&A). **6 minutes**. Beginning with the FOR team, each team takes turns asking the other team questions. These questions can be about main claims, evidence, terms used, or any other info you think may be helpful.
5. Re-group. **5-minute break**. Time to strategize and formulate your rebuttal & closing statement.
6. FOR team presents their rebuttal and closing statement. **4 minutes**. This is a chance to poke holes in your opponents' argument. (e.g., "My opponent said X...but X is really implausible because Y"). End by offering a closing argument that summarizes (1) the major disagreements b/w your team and the opposing team; and (2) which arguments your team has won and why
7. AGAINST team presents their rebuttal and closing statement. **4 minutes**. Same format and strategy as above.

End of debate. Judges will confer in the hallway for 2 minutes, return to the classroom, and give us their assessment. We will then repeat the above steps for the second debate. (Two debates will be held during May 7th and one during May 12th, for a total of four debates).

Rubric:

Meet with me before May 1 st to rehearse your argument:	25 points
Show up on time May 7 th and May 12 th :	10 points
Fully participate in the debate:	50 points
-Each team member should help construct and refine key arguments to prepare for the debate	
-Each team member should speak (loudly and clearly) during the debate	
-Each team member must be respectful of opponents, especially during Q&A	
Judge two other debates:	15 points
Total	100 points