English 112

Mr. Ross

October 2019

Class Debate

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ffective debate is the cornerstone of western democracy, as its place in parliamentary procedures is the difference between a bill’s assent or defeat; debate binds together friendships; and debate gives one the skills to contest enemies with pens and words rather than punches and wounds. The class will generate topics that are sophisticated and complex. These topics will require creative thinking, research, and a serious approach.

See the information and criteria below to initiate your work:

1. You will be paired-up with another student, but marked separately.
2. Each pair will be pitted against another with a unique topic.
3. Everyone must be prepared to debate on Monday, October 28th.
4. You will be asked to help time, moderate, and judge debates when not debating.
5. Every year there are one or two people who, understandably, cannot debate because of unmanageable anxiety. These people have the option of recording an 8-minute original speech. Those few people who may wish to proceed in such a way must inform Mr. Ross by Thursday, October 17th.

# Criteria

You will bring together speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills to the debate to achieve the following:

**25 *Speaking* Points**

**Above and Beyond (22.5-25)**

* **I hit points emphatic hand gestures, I maintain composure, I fluently use language, and I modulate my speaking volume as well as tone to enthrall the audience.**

**Basically Fine (19-22)**

* **I use my hands for effect, some facial features are evident, and there is some modulation of volume and tone.**

**Could have done Better (15-18.5)**

* **Attempts are made to use physical qualities and language choices; however, a lack of poise is distracting**

**25 *Listening* Points**

**Above and Beyond (22.5-25)**

* **I demonstrate active listening by understanding, analyzing, and then spiritedly clashing against my opponents’ positions.**

**Basically Fine (19-22)**

* **I demonstrate active listening by understanding, analyzing, and then arguing with my opponents’ positions.**

**Could have done Better (15-18.5)**

* **There is evidence that I did not fully understand my opponents’ positions, but I still argued against some of their points.**

**25 *Reading* Points**

**Above and Beyond (22.5-25)**

* **I cite striking research to back my argument**

**Basically Fine (19-22)**

* **I cite relevant research to back my argument**

**Could have done Better (15-18.5)**

* **The link between the research and overall argument is weak, but it is still from a reputable source.**

**25 *Writing* Points**

**Above and Beyond (22.5-25)**

* **I use analogy, metaphor, and repetition in my hook and summary.**
* **I craft overall arguments that use a striking warrant and claim.**

**Basically Fine (19-22)**

* **I use one of the above rhetorical devices in my hook and summary.**
* **My argument has a solid warrant to back up my claim**

**Could have done Better (15-18.5)**

* I attempt to use a rhetorical device in my hook or summary.
* There is some general disagreement with my warrant.