



Lincoln Douglas Debate or Public Forum Debate

TASK: You may choose to participate in either a Lincoln-Douglas Debate (one person versus one person; primarily philosophical) or Public Forum Debate (two person team versus two person team; primarily pragmatic). Ms. Maxson will hand out an information packet on each--including the format.

The topics will be announced in class, set by National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA):

Lincoln Douglas Topic:

Public Forum Debate Topic:

You may not necessarily agree with the side of the issue you have been assigned. Arguing a different point of view allows you to more educated position in which to affirm your belief.

Both styles of debate require constructive arguments, cross examination, and rebuttal.

ASSESSMENT:

We will use the GGSA judging ballot criteria:

- analysis
- evidence
- reasoning
- cross examination
- rebuttal
- delivery
- courtesy



Ideas for Cross Examination Questions

- Requests for Clarification: You said _____, but I don't know what you mean by that. Please clarify. Do you mean by _____, or _____?
- Requests for Argument. You claimed _____. Why do you think that is true? Or: I don't see any argument for _____, and I think you need to give an argument for it. Or What support do you have for the truth of your claim that _____?
- Objections: You said _____. However, we think that _____ is problematic. Here's my objection to _____. Or: here is my objection to your argument for _____. What do you say in response to this? Or: How is (reason #n) relevant to our topic here? Or: Aren't there other ways to achieve what you want in (reason #n) without having to accept your side of the argument? Reason [#n] seems to suffer from weakness _____ (or problem _____; how would you defend it from that? Etc.
- Suggestion of parallels. You claim p. P (or your argument for p) reminds me of so-and-so's claim that q (or his argument for q). Are the two really similar? Does comparing p to q help illuminate p, or is it just misleading?