

CS 4001 – Debates

You will be assigned to a team of students. Each team will be given a schedule of debates to prepare for, including multiple topic(s). On the day of your debate, you will randomly pick a topic from the list of daily topics and the opposing team will flip a coin to determine which team takes the "PRO" or "CON" side of the topic.

Your team must be prepared to argue BOTH sides of ALL topics for the day.

A different person must give your constructive argument and rebuttal. You may have more than one person speak for each portion if you choose. Each debate will have the following format:

- Team A (PRO): 4 Minute Constructive Argument
- Team B (CON): 4 Minute Constructive Argument
- Team A(PRO): 2 minute rebuttal
- Team B (CON): 2 minute rebuttal

Debate Resolutions:

1. Software patents should continue to be granted without modification to the current system.
2. The concept of Network Neutrality ignores the rights of Internet Service Providers who have a legitimate need to manage the data flowing over their networks.
3. The length of copyright terms should be shortened to 20 years.
4. Anonymous comment boards, such as 4Chan or CollegeACB provide a valuable platform that supports constitutionally protected free speech, and should not be regulated.
5. Americans should be required to obtain a single electronic AmericanID card which will include electronic credentials that allow them to log into any Internet service with their confirmed identity.
6. The federal government should levy a 10% tax on all broadband Internet service, the proceeds of which will be used to provide a "minimum-speed" DSL line to anyone falling below the poverty line to ensure universal access to the Internet.
7. Americans should be allowed to vote via a government website from their homes.

Grading Criteria and approximate grading weight:

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| 1. Are the claim and its supporting arguments well argued? | 15% |
| 2. Is sufficient evidence presented to support arguments?
-Sources should be appropriate and relevant. | 20% |
| 3. Are counterarguments fairly presented and addressed? | 20% |
| 4. Were speakers understandable, exhibiting poise and confidence? | 15% |
| 5. Did your team win? (Judges' consensus) | 10% |
| 6. Partner Evaluations (one evaluation form over all debates) | 20% |

To Submit: The debates themselves will be judged in-class. However, you must submit a team evaluation after your last debate to T-Square. This team evaluation should be in PDF format. In it, you must include:

- Your name and the names of your debate team partners.
- The percentage of credit you believe each partner deserves for their part in preparing for and delivering the debates (the three or four partner's contributions should sum to 100%).
 - Note that work does NOT have to be shared equally for credit to be shared equally. If you have made an informal arrangement within your group (for example, one person does a majority of the research, but does not actually debate) that all group members are happy with, you may allocate credit equally.
 - It is perfectly acceptable to believe that you deserve more credit than your teammates, and although we may not agree with you (based upon your teammate's evaluations) we won't penalize you for holding such a belief.
 - Please give an honest answer. If a student coasts through this assignment, it is of (long term) benefit for them to earn the grade they deserve now, and hopefully learn from it. In a business environment you risk more than a low grade by not pulling your weight. By calling out a teammate that does little to assist the team, you will be helping to give them valuable feedback that will hopefully prevent a similar occurrence later in life when the stakes are higher.

Debate Judging Form

Topic: _____

Team A (PRO): _____

Team B (CON): _____

Winner: _____

Judges' Ratings:

Team A (PRO)				Team B (CON)			
Research / Evidence	E	S	U	Research / Evidence	E	S	U
Argument / Organization	E	S	U	Argument / Organization	E	S	U
Counterarguments / Rebuttal	E	S	U	Counterarguments / Rebuttal	E	S	U
Poise / Confidence	E	S	U	Poise / Confidence	E	S	U

Comments: