AMERICAN LITERATURE

CLASS DEBATE

In groups of three, pick from the following topics:

* Gun Control
* Animal Testing
* Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide
* Marijuana legalization
* Abortion
* Death Penalty

You will argue either the Pro or the Con side.

**Research:**

You are required to use at least FOUR PRINT SOURCES EACH (not Internet), but you may supplement with Internet searches as well. Be sure to consider the RELIABILITY of the source before incorporating it into your research. Good sources (procon.org, scholastic debates, Proquest). Bad sources (Answers.com, Wikipedia).

**Use the included chart to help you:**

For each source, write down 5 direct quotes, data, figures, or relevant data that supports your issue.

For each source, write down 1 direct quote or point that goes against your argument or claim. Plan how you will refute this point by gathering data to help you.

As you research, you may find it helpful to anticipate the weaknesses in the other side’s arguments as well as your own. How can you exploit the weakness of the other side or explain away your own?

**Survivor Day:**

On the third library day, I will be checking that you’ve made minimum progress of completing notes on FOUR PRINT SOURCES before I sign off on Internet use. Students who have not completed their notes must complete them by the end of class and receive a signature.

If you do not complete your notes by the end of the third class in the library, you will be kicked out of your group and will have to do an individual speech instead. *(See below)*

**Debate Format:**

*Every group member must handle at least one of these*

Introduction (5 minutes)

* Pre-written introduction establishing the premise for your argument, making a claim, and providing background information for your position. You may use inductive or deductive reasoning, including syllogism, to come to your position.

Main points (5-8 minutes)

* In pre-written structured paragraphs, present your main claims and support your claims with evidence. Make sure that you introduce any sources for your information and data.
* Make use of ethos, pathos, and logos persuasion strategies to get your point across.
* While the other side is presenting, listen to their argument and their main points. Write down any logical errors you hear, and begin to think about your rebuttal points.

Rebuttal Prep (5 minutes)

* Based on the other side’s argument, ALL group members will prepare to rebut the other argument. You may point out logical errors, holes in the argument, issues of source credibility, and information that the other side may have not considered or forgotten.

Rebuttal (3 minutes)

* Present the rebuttal you just prepared, pointing out the weaknesses to the other side’s position.

Response (2 minutes)

* Respond to the other side’s rebuttal of your argument, clarifying or explaining why their rebuttal is still incorrect.

Conclusion (3 minutes)

* Present a pre-written conclusion that sums up your argument.

**Point Breakdown:**

*Group Score*

Typed Introduction/ Conclusion, 1 per group (20 POINTS)

MLA Works Cited Page, 1 per group (10 POINTS)

*Individual Score*

Individual Notes on at least 4 print sources (40 POINTS)

Debate preparedness (15 POINTS)

Debate effectiveness (15 POINTS)

**Speech:**

If you are deemed ineligible to compete in the debate, you will instead deliver a speech with visuals on your topic. You must turn in a written speech and works cited page on the day of your speech. The highest possible grade on the speech is a C-.

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| --- |
| Name: |
| MY TOPIC:  MY STANCE: |
| **SOURCE NUMBER 1** |
| **MLA Works Cited Information:**  *Write down the citation information for this source.* |
| Relevant data #1: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #2: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #3: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #4: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #5: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Counter data #1: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that denies your position. Include page #.*  How can I explain away this problem? |
| Weaknesses exposed in the other side’s argument: *Write down any information that will help you refute the position of the other side.* |

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| Name: |
| MY TOPIC:  MY STANCE: |
| **SOURCE NUMBER 2** |
| **MLA Works Cited Information:**  *Write down the citation information for this source.* |
| Relevant data #1: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #2: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #3: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #4: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #5: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Counter data #1: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that denies your position. Include page #.*  How can I explain away this problem? |
| Weaknesses exposed in the other side’s argument: *Write down any information that will help you refute the position of the other side.* |

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| Name: |
| MY TOPIC:  MY STANCE: |
| **SOURCE NUMBER 3** |
| **MLA Works Cited Information:**  *Write down the citation information for this source.* |
| Relevant data #1: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #2: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #3: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #4: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #5: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Counter data #1: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that denies your position. Include page #.*  How can I explain away this problem? |
| Weaknesses exposed in the other side’s argument: *Write down any information that will help you refute the position of the other side.* |

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| Name: |
| MY TOPIC:  MY STANCE: |
| **SOURCE NUMBER 4** |
| **MLA Works Cited Information:**  *Write down the citation information for this source.* |
| Relevant data #1: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #2: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #3: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #4: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Relevant data #5: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that supports your position. Include page #.* |
| Counter data #1: *Write down a fact, figure, or other information that denies your position. Include page #.*  How can I explain away this problem? |
| Weaknesses exposed in the other side’s argument: *Write down any information that will help you refute the position of the other side.* |

Teacher sign-off: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Additional research or Internet research may be completed on your own paper and format. Be sure to collect MLA citation information.*