

Name:

You've Got Issues
Today's Political Debates



Each group will be assigned an issue of political importance today.

The group will be split in two: half will research and argue the issue from the Liberal/Democratic point of view.; the other half will research and argue the issue from the Conservative/Republican point of view. Though you may not agree with the side you are assigned, you need to work objectively.

The small group will conduct research on their side of the assigned issue. This research should give each member a broad understanding of the issue in question. Use the questions provided to guide your research.

In class, a debate will take place. Each side of the assigned issue will need to prepare the following for their presentation. Each component must be typed (12 pt. Times New Roman font) on a separate sheet of paper with the names of the members of the team at the top.

1. Opening Statement

- a. Are you for or against the issue and why? (one 5-sentence paragraph)
- b. What does your opposition believe and why is this wrong, in your opinion? (one 5 sentence paragraph)

2. Anticipatory and Rebuttal Statements

- a. What will your opposition say against your stance? (5 statements from the oppositions point of view)
- b. How would you respond to the anticipatory statements? (5 statements from your team's point of view). 2 of the 5 rebuttal statements must include research-based information – expert opinions, scientific opinions, statistics.
- c. You should create a chart for this portion of the assignment, one side with an anticipatory statement, and one side for the rebuttal to that statement.

3. Conclusionary Statement

- a. Wrap up your argument in one 5-sentence paragraph – without just repeating what was in your opening statement.

Day One:	Conduct research in the computer lab.
Day Two and Three:	Prepare debate statements and rebuttals
Day Four and Five:	Debates in Class

This assignment is worth 50 points – the same grade will be given to each member of the small team, unless it is evident that certain members deserve more or less points based on level of work observed. The winning side of the debate will have 5 points added to their score.