

## Debates

Debates cover controversial historical issues and are research intensive. Debate assignments are completed in pairs (which you may choose). Debate partners construct persuasive arguments for or against a question (ex. Was dropping the Atomic Bomb necessary to end WWII?). You must choose a new debate partner for every debate that you do.

### Format:

#### I. PRE VOTE

#### II. OPENING ARGUMENTS ( 3-4 minutes)

Each debate team will choose one member to present an opening argument. A clear thesis should be presented, as well as a brief outline of the evidence that supports the arguments. Definitions of terms, historical context, and the significance of the topic should also be addressed.

#### III. PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE

Teams will take turns presenting pieces of evidence to support their side of the argument. Each team must present six well-developed items, which include details like statistics, voting records, historical documents, visual evidence, etc... Primary sources are best!

#### IV. REBUTTAL

Throughout the debate, each team should take notes on the arguments presented by the opposing team and then present a rebuttal to weak arguments or questionable evidence.

#### V. QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Each team will take questions to clarify their evidence and positions. Are you really an expert? The audience is not allowed to ask hypothetical questions.

#### VI. CLOSING ARGUMENTS (3-4 minutes)

The second member of each team will present closing arguments. These arguments should reiterate the thesis and clarify the evidence presented. Part of this may be in direct response to the opposing team's presentation

#### VII. POST VOTE - Were you able to sway opinions?