



Let the Debates Begin!



It is now time to test your persuasive skills and talent! "Friends of Fiefdom" and the "Fief Fighters" are offering a special seminar in the art of debate, and you are invited! They want to make sure you are prepared for the big debate to city council!

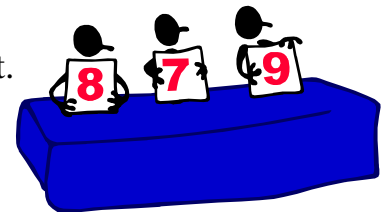
You will be partnered up with another student in class, and together you will try to out-debate your opponents by coming up with the best supporting arguments to your claim. You will be receiving an argument card with a red or green argument stated on it. Know that if you have the red version of the argument, a partnership in this class has the green version of the argument. "We should not wear school uniforms" is an example of a red argument because it is the negative version. "We should wear school uniforms" is the green version. You are trying to outsmart your opponents by coming up with better supporting details than they do.

Not only do you have to come up with supporting evidence for your claim, but you also have to recognize the claims that your opponents are making and refute them. It is not enough to say that you are right for the following reasons and then walk away. You must also prove your opponents are wrong by coming up with negating reasons to their argument. Before the debate begins, you need to come up with at least three reasons why your argument is true, even if you don't believe it's true personally. Then try to think of the arguments that your opponents might come up with for their own side of the argument. Together with your partner, you need to think of counter reasons that your argument is stronger than your opponents' argument.

After you have worked together with your partner to come up with a strong argument and have thought about the possible arguments that your opponents might come up with, it is now time to debate the argument in front of the class. All four of you will come up to the front of the class together for a mock debate. We will listen to the positive side of the argument followed by the negative side. Then we will open the argument up to travel back and forth between the opponents. At no time are you to interrupt while someone else is speaking. Good sportsmanship will prevail in this class. You will be allowed five minutes to debate with one another as to who has the best argument. After which, the class will determine together who won. It is my hope that you will recognize the structure within the setting of a debate, just as you have done with your editorials. Good luck, and may the best-supported argument win!

Criteria used to assess this task:

- ⊙ State at least three supporting reasons for your argument.
- ⊙ Refute opponents' main points.
- ⊙ Listen attentively to opponents as they speak.
- ⊙ Speak loudly and clearly for all to hear.
- ⊙ Show enthusiasm and determination in presenting your argument.
- ⊙ Do not interrupt your opponents.
- ⊙ Stick to your reasons while debating- No name-calling (Ex: That's stupid)!



∩ See attached rubric for a detailed breakdown of points.