**Debate**

Steps for Debate Preparation:

1. Choose a **topic**
2. **Research** a topic. 2 class periods.
   1. Statistical or Data evidence (##% of death row inmates’ convictions are overturned)
   2. Authoritative (The American Civil Liberties Union states death is wrong in any situation)
   3. Anecdotal evidence (personal experience)
3. As a group, vote for a Team **Captain** to: maintain team discipline and focus, lead, remain fair and unbiased, delegate responsibilities
   1. **Group** Members will support the captain, plan and research arguments, participate actively in planning and discussions, organize information, maintain self-control.
4. Choose **Proposition or Opposition** (are you arguing “for” or “against” the topic)
5. Prepare your speech and debate input. **Remember to have available your resources, you will need to “speak to the research.”** 
   1. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*You will never say “In my opinion” or “I think.”
   2. In rebuttal, you may ask from where the speaker got his information.

Steps for Debate Process:

There are two teams – Proposition and Opposition.

1. Speaker 1 Proposition – reads 5 minute prepared and researched speech
2. Speaker 1 Opposition – reads 5 minute prepared and researched speech
3. Speaker 2 Proposition- provides rebuttal (puts holes in the opposition). This is mostly prepared but also impromptu in response to Speaker 1 Opposition. (The more prepared and researched you are, the easier this will be). YOU ARE TAKING NOTES ON SPEECH! (2 minutes)
4. Speaker 2 Opposition - provides rebuttal (puts holes in the proposition). This is mostly prepared but also impromptu in response to Speaker 1 Opposition. (The more prepared and researched you are, the easier this will be) YOU ARE TAKING NOTES ON SPEECH! (2 minutes)
5. Speaker 3 Proposition – reads 1 minute summary
6. Speaker 3 Opposition – reads 1 minute summary
7. Speaker 4 Proposition – reads 1 minute final focus
8. Speaker 4 Opposition – reads 1 minute final focus

What you want to do:

1. Research your topic thoroughly, both sides.
2. Take copious (lots) of notes
3. Speak to the research. Quote statistics, data, resources (where you got the information)

What you don’t want to do:

1. Get personal, rude, upset
2. Say “In my opinion” “I think.” (Instead, support your argument with research).

Judges:

1. Take notes using T chart for both sides of the argument
2. Score each side and determine a winner! Do not simply choose the side in which you agree.

Topics.

1. Cigarettes should be illegal
2. The death penalty should exist in the United States
3. School teachers should be armed
4. Guns should be illegal
5. The government should increase the “sin” tax. (This is a tax on cigarettes, alcohol)
6. There should be more cameras in “education” – classrooms, buses, hallways, offices
7. Teachers’ salaries should be tied to student performance
8. Professional athletes should have a salary cap (a maximum amount of money)
9. Violent juvenile offenders should be tried as adults
10. The United States should pay reparations for slavery (benefits-money, jobs)
11. There should be mandatory drug testing for students in extracurricular activities (after school)
12. The government should legalize voluntary euthanasia (prematurely killing a sick person)
13. Adults should be required to have a license to have children
14. The United States should ban all experiments on animals
15. Public schools should teach World Religions

# Constructing a Case.

Once you can answer these questions, you are on your way to building a case. Answer as fully as possible.

1. Problem: Is there a problem? (innocent inmates killed; too much violence in our society)
2. Policy: The death penalty laws exist. Is there justice? Is it a deterrent?
3. Principles: “An eye for an eye.” Murder. Civil and social order through consequences/punishment.
4. Practice: Some states are more liberal using it.

Topic: Prop or Opp

Source #1

**Facts**

Source #2

Facts

Source #3

Facts