COM 438

1st Debate Assignment Sheet

Debate Dates: Thursday, March 13 and Tuesday, March 18

The Latin word *munus* (contained in the word communication) has to do with gifts or duties offered PUBLICLY--including gladitorial shows, tributes, and . . . debates! That’s right, we are honoring this fundamental dimension of communication by sharing our talent, insight, and razor-sharp critical skills with one another. We will debate each other on **a topic of your team’s choice**. I only ask that you check with me once your team has settled on a topic for approval. Each team will debate for no more than 7 minutes and at the end of each debate the class will take a vote to determine the winner.

This exercise is meant to help you understand argument types and fallacies. It is also meant to inspire lively and passionate conversation among members of the class on a timely debate. In each round, 2 pairs of students will debate in front of the class for around 7 minutes and the class will vote for the winning pair at the end of each debate. As soon as one debate finishes and the judges (classmates) declare a winner we will move on to the next debate.

Final Debate

**The rules:**

1. The debating teams will be comprised of two pairs. Each pair will defend a chosen position within a controversy.
2. No logical fallacies allowed! Audience members will be given extra credit (1 point each) for identifying fallacies throughout the debate. Friends don’t let friends use fallacious arguments.
3. All debaters must use some form of prepared written notes on the day of the debate. Use these notes to remind yourself of:

a. Your BEST arguments

b. Your BEST reasons/evidence (support for your claims)

b**. Your response to anticipated objections**

6. Keep it clean. No cursing, character assassinations, or any other kind of indecorous behavior. This is a family show.

7. You must adhere to your time limits. No exceptions.

8. Debating groups (the four of you) must work together to ensure everyone’s equal participation. You must also ensure each pair knows the position for which each pair will debate. Beyond that, you are not to share arguments in support of your team positions with each other. You want to win, right?

9. You will be evaluated both as an individual contributor to your group and as group members so please make sure everyone in the group gets a chance to demonstrate their skills.

**The Debates**

1. The debate format should be as follows:
   1. Minutes ONE - Team A will give main reasons for support
   2. Minutes TWO- Team B will give main reasons for support
   3. Minute THREE- Team A responds to Team B (attack their reasons)
   4. Minute FOUR- Team B will respond to Team A attacks
   5. Minutes FIVE- Fiery exchange back and forth

*\*\* As you prepare to debate try to anticipate what reasons your opposition will use to defend their view and jot down ways to refute their reasons.*

1. After 7 minutes, I call "time" and the teams must stop debating
2. The class gets 3 minutes to ask questions of the teams, call out any use of fallacies, and vote on which team won the debate

**The Process**

1. As part of the requirements for this activity you must meet as a group at least once to determine the position each pair will defend. You may do this outside of class time if desired.
2. You must select a group name!

**Team Contact Info** Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Tel#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Tel#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Tel#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Tel#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Debate Topics and Resources:**

<http://wweb.uta.edu/faculty/schoech/cussn/courses/6355/debate.htm>

<http://www2.bc.cc.ca.us/jgiertz/value_debate_topics.htm>

<http://www.conservapedia.com/Conservapedia:Debate_Topics>

<http://people.opposingviews.com/religious-debate-topics-5200.html>

Team Assignments:

* Emily R.

Eric

Katherine

Rachel

* Kristen

Emma

Rickey

Carly

* Rachael

Jordan

Michael H.

Lane

* Kyle

Ciara

Sean

Naomi

* Joan

Shalie

Lien Phuong

Emily Q.

* Chris

Maria

Nate

Michael P.

* Lindsay

Keller

Alexandra

Lena

* Andrew

Robert

Mark

Evan