

Actors and Strategies for Change – Towards Global Sustainabilities

Spring 2018

Instructions: Debates

During the session on March 12th we won't have a guest, but instead engaging more with each other in a debate format. The purpose of this is to apply theoretical knowledge and critical thinking methods to an ethical problem in relation to the course content. You're going to think and reason around one given topic individually before organising ideas in your group so that they can be expressed to the rest of class in a structured manner. After a brief introduction and explanation of the debate format you will be split into small groups, each group receiving a debate motion and a side (for or against).

Then, the groups are given 30 minutes to prepare for the debate. This time will be used to first individually think about the motion, and then discuss within the group, writing down your ideas and planning your strategy for the debate. You will want to decide on how to structure the debate, who should have which role in the group, and divide up your ideas. It's useful to note down an order in which arguments will be presented and who will focus on which arguments, for example. Make sure to use this time as efficiently as possible.

You may NOT use mobile phones or computers during the preparation. The purpose of the debate is NOT to find relevant statistics or examples, but rather on creating arguments based on ethics and an analytical perspective. Namely, this includes responding to counter arguments through analysis and reasoning rather than with facts and numbers.

Structure

Each debate begins with an opening statement from both sides for about two minutes each. CHOOSE a person to give this opening statement during the preparation. This is followed by an open debate. During this time EVERYONE must contribute with at least one argument and respond to one counter argument. You can talk for as long as you want (but if you talk for too long and others want

to contribute we will interrupt you eventually). If you want to talk, either raise your hand or get up so you will get an opportunity to talk. After approximately 20 minutes, a two-minute intermission will occur for you to prepare your closing speeches. Again, you should have determined who would give the closing speech during the initial preparation time. Everyone should help that person prepare for this during the intermission, but they may decide for themselves how to best spend this time. Should someone have contributed significantly less than others during the open debate, the course coordinators will ask this person to give the concluding remarks.

The debate ends after the two-minute long closing statements from each team.

Summary of the structure of the debate

1. Introduction Speech
 - FOR Team: 2min
 - AGAINST Team: 2min
2. Open Debate (Everyone contributes): 20min
3. Intermission: 2min to prepare closing statement
4. Closing Statements
 - FOR Team: 2min
 - AGAINST Team: 2min

Formal requirements

- Think and familiarise yourself about the notion
- During the preparation time, participate in group discussion
- During the debate, express your thoughts and analysis on the subject (all have to talk at least once)