



# DEBATE

## THE RULES OF THE GAME

*« There is no conversation more boring than the one where everybody agrees. »*

Michel de Montaigne (1533-1592)

### AIM

- To apply theoretical knowledge and critical-thinking methods to an ethical problem in relation to the course's content
- To organise and express individual and groups ideas into arguments in favour of your case
- To express these arguments in an organised and coherent manner for the rest of the class

### OVERVIEW

#### *Preparations*

Upon coming to class, students will be divided into small groups. Each group will receive a topic and a stance either IN FAVOUR or AGAINST

The groups will then be given 45 minutes to prepare for the debate. It is recommended that time be used to individually reflect on the topic, then discuss and structure the debate together in a group (including deciding who will have what role in the group), and later write down and organise ideas for your individual comments. Further suggestions (including time allocation) of how to use the preparation time are included in the debate template on the course website. Use the debate template only if it helps you to generate arguments and structure your thoughts (and later to deliver your speech).

DO NOT use mobile phones or computers during this time. The purpose of the debate is NOT to focus on statistics or niche examples, rather it is to create arguments based on ethical and analytical perspectives that draw upon knowledge we have learnt during the course. That is to say, you must respond to counter arguments through basic analysis and reasoning and NOT with facts and numbers.

#### *Debate structure*

After the preparation time, the debates take place one after another. Each debate begins with introduction remarks from both sides (maximum two minutes each). Choose a person who will give this speech during the preparation period. After this, there is time for the open debate. During this time, everyone must contribute at least one argument and respond to counter arguments. You can talk as long as you want and as many times as you want. However, as moderators, we will ensure that everybody has a fair opportunity to talk and may interrupt you if necessary. If you want to talk either raise your hand or stand up. You will then be given the opportunity to talk. After about 20 minutes, a two-minute break will take place to prepare for closing remarks. You should have decided roughly who would give the closing remarks during the first preparation time. Now you must confirm who will give this speech and help them prepare (they may choose whether to talk in the group or write silently during this time). If someone has still not contributed during the open debate, this person will have to give the closing remarks. The debate ends after the closing remarks from each team.



### Summary of debate structure

Introductory remarks – In favour [2 minutes]  
Introductory remarks – Against [2 minutes]  
Open debate (everybody speaks) [20 minutes]  
Preparation time for closing remarks [2 minutes]  
Closing remarks – In favour [90 seconds]  
Closing remarks – Against [90 seconds]

### *After the debate*

Shake hands and thank your teammates and opponents.

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Individually think about and contemplate your assigned topic
- Participate in group discussion and planning during the preparation time
- During the debate, express your thoughts and analysis on the topic, as well as respond to the other team's arguments (everybody must speak at least once)
- Before the evening's close, submit the debate template (in paper) with your thoughts and arguments.
- **Takes place on: Wednesday, November 14th, 17.15-20.00**