

Dear Team X,

Your team is in charge of defending X.

Our readings discuss several arguments for this position, as well as several arguments against it.

It would be wise to look at all the arguments for and against the thesis you are defending in order to get ideas about how to argue and what sort of objections you should respond to. The most straightforward strategy for defending a claim is to rebut arguments AGAINST it.

The plan for the debate is for each member of each team to give a two-minute speech that either advances an argument for your side or else rebuts an argument from the other side. (The speeches should be roughly 300 words. It's fine to go for three or four minutes, but if you talk for *less than one minute*, there will be a *significant* penalty.) Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are in charge of producing and posting arguments defending your team's position. Margaret and Mary will be rebutting arguments given by the other side. To get an A for the debate you must do more than just regurgitate arguments that we have read or discussed in class, although a *very nice* regurgitation is good for a B or even a B+. However, you should think very carefully about whether you have understood your position and the argument you are giving—incorrect regurgitations are not going to help you much. **Full credit for the debate requires some sort of original thought or insight about this topic.**

Those of you in charge of producing positive argumentation should post your arguments (as comments) here by **6 pm the evening before the debate:**

<https://philosophydebates.blogspot.com>

You should check to make sure that your comment appears. If you have trouble getting your comment to appear, try posting as 'Anonymous', and/or using a web browser other than Safari (Google, who owns Blogger, seems to be messing with Apple right now), and if that does not work then send it to me and I'll post it for you.

You are required to post your arguments by the evening before the debate in order to give the other team's rebutters time to think of a substantive rebuttal. The rebutters on your team should look at the other team's arguments in order to rebut them. Rebutters do not need to post their arguments. It doesn't matter if two people rebut the same argument, as long as your rebuttals are not exactly the same. Your posts (since you are Team X) should have this form, so that it is easy to follow who is arguing for what:

Jane Doe's Team X Argument: blah blah blah.

Make sure to include your name or student number in your post (if you followed the previous instruction your name should be the first thing in your post).

The format for the debate will be as follows:

Team X - 2min

Team Not X - 2min

Team X - 2min
Team Not X - 2min
Team X - 2min
Team Not X - 2min
Team X - 2min
Team Not X - 2min

Team X Rebuttal - 2min
Team Not X Rebuttal- 2min
Team X Rebuttal - 2min
Team Not X Rebuttal- 2min
Team X Rebuttal - 2min
Team Not X Rebuttal- 2min

Let me know if you have any questions. Best regards,

Dr. Keller