

*Debate Topics and Teams*

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**Debate 1: People should live together before getting married**

**Approximate date: February 27**

Team 1 (Agree):

Bianca Elder  
Amanda Engborg  
Michelle Micherone  
Caitlin Toland  
Melissa Gallo

Team 2 (Disagree):

Lauren Barrett  
Jennel Carreras  
Christopher Hopkins  
Linda Lee  
Megan Lynch

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**Debate 2: Teenage pregnancy typically leads to poverty**

**Approximate date: March 22**

Team 3 (Agree):

Kevin Clements  
Allie Fishbone  
Erica Shaw  
Dana Van Voorhis

Team 4 (Disagree):

Sarah Choi  
Meghan Hart  
Christine Moynihan  
Sarah Quick

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**Debate 3: It is better for children if their mothers are not employed while children are young**

**Approximate date: March 29**

Team 5 (Agree):

Chantal Bourel  
Megan Daly  
Matthew Miller  
Katelyn Paglia

Team 6 (Disagree):

Julie Oh  
Matthew Rogan  
Jacqueline Hubbell  
Gustavo Payano

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**Debate 4: Divorce usually has long-term negative effects on children**

**Approximate date: April 26**

Team 7 (Agree):

Philip Norris  
Alex Paprsenos  
Julian Rossello-Cornier  
Alicia Tynan

Team 8 (Disagree):

Shardai Davis  
Melissa Owumi  
Courtney Skehan  
Monica Zielinski  
Ashley Inouye

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## *Preparing for your Debate*

You are now a member of your debate team. Your team will be graded as a whole. This means that you will be as strong as your weakest link. Determined who will be responsible for each portion of your team's debate, but be sure that you work together so that all members of your team have an adequate knowledge of your arguments and evidence.

1. You have to collect social scientific evidence to support your argument as well as to refute potential arguments of your opponents. One good place to start your search is the comprehensive list of Sociology research sources at <http://www.bc.edu/libraries/research/guides/s-sociology/>

I would especially recommend the *Sociological Abstracts* database listed on that page:

<http://metaquest.bc.edu/V/?func=native-link&resource=BCL01646>. You could also try using *Google Scholar*: <http://scholar.google.com/>. If using Google Scholar, use it on campus – that will make it much easier for you to open the articles that you find. You can also use Quest library catalog to search for books. To get started, you could brainstorm various keywords that could be helpful to find evidence on your topic, and then perhaps divide the work of actually searching for articles and books. Select your keywords carefully, and try a variety of combinations to identify the most appropriate ones. In your search, be systematic. Keep track of where you have looked, what words you used for searching and your results. When you find an article or a book that is directly related to your subject, look at list of keywords for that article or book to see what other keywords you should be using to find similar materials. Also, when reading a relevant book or article, always look at their bibliographies to see whether there are other relevant materials cited there. Stay in touch with your group to make sure that you are finding a variety of sources rather than all reading the same articles.

2. You will have to email me the list of the sources you are using as your evidence one week before your debate, and set up a meeting with me to discuss your evidence.

3. The debate itself will start with an opening statement made by your team. This statement should be approximately 10-15 minutes long and should state your team's position, clearly make specific arguments to support this position, and present the supporting evidence. You may use PowerPoint for your presentation, if you choose to.

4. You should have at least 15 questions that can be asked of each of your opponents. These should be on separate sheets of paper or on notecards for easy reference. The questions should be specifically directed to your opponents and should be concise and clear.

5. You should have answers prepared which will be used to respond to your opponents questions. Imagine that you are from the other team and determine what questions may be asked of your team. When preparing the answers, rely on social scientific evidence to make your responses more grounded.

6. You should have a final conclusive argument/statement prepared that you will make at the end of your debate (the main points of this statement will be written on the blackboard). This should be no longer than 5 minutes. You should take notes during the entire debate so that you may refer to these in your final presentation of your team's views.

It is up to you to prepare yourself for the challenge that lies ahead. Only one team will win this debate. The winning team will:

- have a solid background regarding all material
- have plenty of social scientific evidence to back up claims
- use teamwork to teach all in group the important concepts behind specific positions
- clearly present their arguments and evidence
- ask clear, concise, and relevant questions
- provide informed answers to their opponents' questions
- be creative