

US275 Scientific Ethics

Debate Brief for Final Project Constructive Dialogues

C. Debate Brief - First Constructive Dialogue (Draft due April 1; final due April 15)

Each side of the debate will post a short statement (250 – 549 words) arguing for the readers to agree with their position and support or reject the resolution. Review the instructions and grading rubric for debate briefs attached to this assignment.

Draft of Debate Brief - First Constructive Dialogue (Draft due April 1)

Each side of the debate will post a short statement (250 – 549 words) arguing for the readers to agree with their position and support or reject the resolution. Review the instructions and grading rubric for debate briefs attached to this assignment.

A more complete and polished draft will allow the instructor to provide better feedback for the assignment. The instructor will place comments into the document and return the attachment to the members of the group by email.

Due: midnight April 1: Should be emailed as an attachment to the course instructor (Hoffmanj@arcadia.edu) and all members of the group.

Grading: 1 point

Final Debate Brief - First Constructive Dialogue (final due April 15)

The group should review the instructor's comments and complete the necessary revisions. The final document will then be posted as an attachment in the Course Discussion board, under "Final Project-Debate: Your topic" in a message titled "Proponent first constructive dialogue." or "Opponent first constructive dialogue."

Due: midnight April 15: Should be posted directly into the discussion thread in the course Blackboard site.

Grading: 4 point

D. Debate Brief - Second Constructive Dialogue (Draft due Apr 8; final due Apr 22)

The requirements for the second constructive dialogue are the same as the first constructive dialogue. However, you should be making additional points to support your position.

Draft of Debate Brief - Second Constructive Dialogue (Draft due April 8)

Due: midnight April 8: Should be emailed as an attachment to the course instructor (Hoffmanj@arcadia.edu) and all members of the group.

Grading: 1 point

Final Debate Brief - Second Constructive Dialogue (final due April 22)

The final document will then be posted as an attachment in the Course Discussion board, under "Final Project-Debate: Your topic" in a message titled "Proponent second constructive dialogue." or "Opponent second constructive dialogue."

Due: midnight April 22: Should be posted directly into the discussion thread in the course Blackboard site.

Grading: 4 point

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Debate Brief for Final Project Constructive Dialogues

Debate Brief: A debate brief is an outline that organizes important information into “essential argumentative elements” that may be used in the discussion. The discussion brief should be prepared using the following format.

Introduction: The introduction is a short paragraph to gain the audience or judge’s attention and indicate the importance of supporting (or rejecting) the resolution of the topic of the debate.

Resolution: The resolution is a specific and direct statement about what should be done to address the topic of the debate. (Example: The United States federal government should...)

Definitions of Key Terms: It is important that both sides of the debate and the audience understand the meaning of the terminology that will be presented in the debate. Ideally the use of jargon will be kept to a minimum. It is not necessary to define terms that the audience should be aware of and points that both sides of the debate agree on. These only need to be defined at the beginning of the debate or if questions or disagreements on the definition develop.

Three to five Main points: Affirmative briefs will have scientific and philosophical justifications for how and why adopting the resolution will address the problem. Negative briefs will explain why the current policy or situation is not flawed and should not be changed using similar but opposing scientific and philosophical justifications. The format of the main points should be:

Each main point or argument should be presented in a single paragraph using the ARE (assertion, reasoning, evidence) approach. An assertion is a well-constructed topic sentence in the form of a statement supporting the resolution that should be formatted in bold font. The remainder of the paragraph should provide a brief reasoning of why the assertion is important to adopting (or rejecting) the resolution backed by supporting evidence.

Conclusion: Summarize the brief with a short restatement of position emphasizing key points and requesting the audience or judges support for the position.

| Debate Brief Rubric | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-------|
| | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | score |
| Assertion logically and relevantly linked to topic | Always | Usually | Rarely | Does not | |
| Reasons: facts to support assertion | Uses many | Uses some | Uses few | Does not | |
| Evidence: provides valid sources of facts | Always | Usually | Rarely | Does not | |
| Main points are strong and compelling | Always | Usually | Rarely | Does not | |
| Overall presentation was convincing | Always | Usually | Rarely | Does not | |