

## US275 Scientific Ethics

### Debate Brief for Final Project Rebuttal and Closing Statement

#### **E. Debate Brief - Rebuttal & Closing Statement (Draft due Apr 15; final due Apr 29)**

Each side of the debate will post a short **rebuttal** (250 – 549 words) in response to the arguments made by the other side in their first and second constructive dialogues. At this stage you should NOT be introducing more arguments in support of your position, but either strengthening arguments that you have already made or countering arguments made by the other debater. Review the instructions and grading rubric for debate briefs attached to this assignment.

You should also summarize your overall argument in the debate in a **closing statement** and call for the readers to accept your viewpoint and accept or reject the resolution.

The draft of the rebuttal and closing statement should be submitted as an attachment to the course instructor for feedback by April 15.

#### ***Draft of Debate Brief - Rebuttal & Closing Statement (Draft due Apr 15)***

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 15: Should be emailed as an attachment to the course instructor ([Hoffmanj@arcadia.edu](mailto:Hoffmanj@arcadia.edu)) and all members of the group.

**Grading:** 1 point

#### ***Final Debate Brief - Rebuttal & Closing Statement (final due Apr 29)***

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 rebuttal & closing statement." or "Opponent rebuttal & closing statement."

**Due:** midnight April 29: Should be posted directly into the discussion thread in the course Blackboard site.

**Grading:** 4 point

# US275 Scientific Ethics

## Debate Brief for Final Project Rebuttal and Closing Statement

**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	