

## Decades of Crisis & Change Debate

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Core \_\_\_\_\_

During the decades of crisis and change (the late-1940s through the mid-1970s), there were many events that raised opposing viewpoints; three such historic times include the Cold War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. In order to consider the perspectives of both sides in these situations, you will engage in a debate.

**You will be preparing both the pro and the con arguments for two different questions:**

- Was the fight against Communism a fight for justice/democracy or a fight for power/dominance?
- Were the U.S.'s actions/involvement in Korea and Vietnam justified?

### **Steps to Success: Preparing for Your Debate**

1. As you read through the resources, ***gather your evidence*** for both sides of the debate questions by taking notes and citing your sources in the provided document.
2. In the document where you collected your notes, ***find your best arguments by ranking your evidence***.
3. ***Write*** your debate.
  - a. You will be writing four arguments: the pro and con of question one and the pro and con of question two.
    - i. Tip: When writing both perspectives, try to write them like you're arguing one against the other and make sure both are well-rounded. This will enable you consider both sides of the argument equally and help you think about what you might have to refute/rebut.
  - b. Structure your speech like a miniature essay.
    - i. Introduction
      1. Hook your audience with an effective start.
      2. Provide some context/foundation for the argument.
      3. State your position in the form of a thesis.
    - ii. Body Paragraph
      1. Incorporate your strongest evidence; elaborate/follow up on those examples with details, reasoning, and explanations about why/how it matters (think claim – proof – impact). Note your sources within your sentences (ex: According to...).
      2. Transitions should be seamlessly incorporated between your pieces of evidence to both enhance the flow and distinguish your points.
    - iii. Conclusion – Conclude your whole speech in one to two effective sentences; leave the listener considering your most important points.

### **4. Practice!**

- a. You may come with prepared remarks but your goal is to be extemporaneous (aka to not rely completely on your paper); while you can have your full argument in your hands, the goal is for you to not simply read your argument word-for-word. That said, a speech that feels winged or is filled with “ums” won't enable you to effectively argue your position.
- b. Delivery
  - i. Eye contact and presence – As much as possible, without breaking the fluidity of speaking, look at the audience while giving your speech; additionally, stand while talking and possibly use gestures to effectively emphasize a point.
  - ii. Speaking – Though you have only two minutes, pace yourself so your diction/enunciation is clear and your words are not coming across rushed. Your volume should be adequate for all to easily hear, and practice your inflection so your speech is not monotone/robotic.
  - iii. Making mistakes is natural! If you accidentally stop or lose your place/train of thought, take a deep breath, find your spot, and continue.

### **5. Come prepared** on the day of the debate.

- a. Dress for success!
- b. Have your speeches already printed; the topic and side you have will be revealed on debate day.
- c. Bring a writing utensil.

## How Will the Debate Be Structured?

- **Arguments**
  - **Pro will go first with a maximum of two (2) minutes** to share the prepared argument; a time warning knock will be given with 10 seconds remaining.
    - During this time, the con debater should be listening attentively and jotting down aspects to refute/address.
  - **Con will go next with a maximum of two (2) minutes** to share the prepared argument; a time warning knock will be given with 10 seconds remaining.
    - During this time, the pro debater should be listening attentively and jotting down aspects to refute/address.
- **Rebuttal**
  - **Pro will have one (1) minute for a rebuttal**; a convincing refutation of the con side should be made by challenging the evidence and logic of the opposition's argument.
  - **Con will have one (1) minute for a rebuttal**; a convincing refutation of the pro side should be made by challenging the evidence and logic of the opposition's argument.
  - Important: Simply repeating back one's own argument here is not helpful since the point is to discredit/disprove/refute the opposition.
  - Etiquette: Be respectful while disagreeing! When beginning your rebuttal, start with something like, "You raised interesting points, but I respectfully disagree".
- **Questions from audience will be asked**, alternating between questions for the pro debater and questions for the con debater; the question session will last for two (2) minutes total.
  - Note: When part of the audience, generate quality questions for both sides as the arguments are being given.
  - Note: Those wishing to ask a question will stand when given the signal; questioners will be selected through a continuous and consistent rotation around the room.

## How Will I Be Graded? See the rubric! 😊

- Writing
  - All four written arguments will be graded. (100 points total = 25 points each)
- Debating
  - You will be graded on the delivery of your argument, the effectiveness of your rebuttal, and your ability to answer questions posed by the audience. (40 points total)
- Questions
  - The quality of your questions posed to the debaters will also be factored into your grade. (10 points total)

