

DEBATE MAKE UP ASSIGNMENT

All students who, for whatever reason, were unable to participate in the class debate must complete the following assignment for a grade equal to that of a debate. You must follow the directions very carefully and fulfill all criteria to receive full credit. Your assignment is to write a detailed essay focused on your original debate question, providing background information on the topic, presenting arguments and evidence for **BOTH** sides of the debate, anticipating and rebutting potential criticisms from **BOTH** sides, and ultimately explaining which position you feel is the strongest and why. Essentially, **you will be fulfilling all of the roles of debate in one essay**. It does not matter whether you were originally a moderator or a debater, or which side you were assigned. You must do all parts, and you may choose whichever position you prefer for your conclusion. If you need help understanding the arguments or finding helpful sources, **first** reach out first to the former members of your debate group. If you still need help, come to me and ask. We can also work on this during office hours.

When presenting evidence, you must fully and properly cite your sources as you would in the debate. That means you must include as much information about your source as possible, such as the author and title, as well as any other information to show that your source is credible and trustworthy. You do not have to use MLA style citation. Simply refer to your source in your sentence, just like you would when speaking in a debate. There is no specified page length for the essay (though two pages is the average), but it must be typed, and must contain six paragraphs according to the structure below. Follow the outline below to make sure you include the correct content in each paragraph.

Assigned Debate Question: _____

Essay Outline

Each number represents one paragraph in your essay. You must follow this structure in writing your essays and **include all required content** in the correct paragraphs.

1. **Introduction:** Provide **background information** on your topic and introduce the debate question.
2. **Affirmative Construction:** Develop and explain **at least three clear and well-developed arguments** for the affirmative side. For **all three** of your arguments, you must **include clearly cited evidence**, either paraphrased or quoted, from a reliable source.
3. **Negative Construction:** Develop and explain **at least three clear and well-developed arguments** for the negative side. For **all three** of your arguments, you must **include clearly cited evidence**, either paraphrased or quoted, from a reliable source.
4. **Affirmative Rebuttal:** Identify **at least one argument** from the negative side and present your rebuttal to it, fully explaining your reasoning or evidence.
5. **Negative Rebuttal:** Identify **at least one argument** from the affirmative side and present your rebuttal to it, fully explaining your reasoning or evidence.
6. **Conclusion:** Explain which side of the debate you support, giving **at least two reasons**.