Debate MP 2: The Ancient & Classical Eras
Tuesday (Nov 26th) & Wednesday (Nov 27th) & Monday (Dec 2nd)

Debate Structure

- Moderator introduces the debate
- Construction (present your argument)
  - Affirmative One- 1-2 min
  - Negative One- 1-2 min
  - Affirmative Two- 1-2 min
  - Negative Two- 1-2 min

- Rebuttal (Refuting your opponent)
  - Affirmative One- 30 sec-1 min
  - Negative One- 30 sec-1 min
  - Affirmative Two- 30 sec-1 min
  - Negative Two- 30 sec-1 min
- Moderator concludes debate

Debate Groups

1. Were the laws of the Code of Hammurabi fair and just?
   a. Affirmative: Mariusz Wisniewski, Carlos Lanuza
   b. Negative: Jeffrey Torres, Ivanna Toro
   c. Moderator: Angie Castillo Infan, Jayden Rubio

Description: The Code of Hammurabi is a controversial topic. It is hailed positively as one of the first written law codes, bringing order to society. However, it is often seen as harsh and backward. Also, while some see it as a milestone and a step forward in the history of justice, others consider the laws to be unjust.

Suggested Research Topics: Code of Hammurabi full text, Mosaic Law (Torah Law), other ancient/modern law codes/legal systems, civil law, criminal law, death penalty, death penalty as a deterrent, corporal punishment, retributive justice, lex talionis, eye for an eye, statistics on crime and punishment, criminal justice, social stratification, patriarchy

2. Did geography (the natural environment) contribute more to the growth of civilization than human ingenuity (inventiveness/technology)?
   a. Affirmative: Stacey Huynh, Conor Smyth
   b. Negative: Marjona Samadjonova, Angie Aucacama Rivera
   c. Moderator: Ivette Trejo, Camille Diaz

Description: Human civilization was heavily dependent on the environment and geography. However, human ingenuity led to the development of technologies that made civilization grow and thrive. So the question is, which was more important, essential, and impactful on early civilizations?

Suggested Research Topics: River valley civilizations in Mesopotamia/Egypt/Indian Subcontinent/China, Phoenicians, Indo-Europeans, Assyrians, Austronesians, Bantu Migrations, agricultural surplus, job specialization, nomadic pastoralism, technology, stone/bronze/iron, writing, trade, bureaucracy, religion/philosophy

3. Did ancient societies benefit from the arrival and influence of migrant groups?
   a. Affirmative: Harsh Patel, Karen Collado, Juan Mendez
   b. Negative: Alex Pieczonka, Aisha Diallo, Isabella Arevalo
   c. Moderator: Elijah Sattaur, Kenneth Gonzalez

Description: People rarely stay in one place. The Ancient and Classical worlds saw the movement of peoples taking place all over the world. Sometimes these movements and migrations led to conflict. Other times they led to beneficial cultural diffusions. So overall, did migrations cause more benefit or detriment?

Suggested Research Topics: Phoenicians, Indo-Europeans, Aryans, Bantu, Hyksos, Polynesian Islands, Sea Peoples, Bronze Age Collapse, Writing Systems, War/Conquest, Cultural Diffusion, Assimilation/Acculturation, Indus Valley Civilization, Caste System, Language, Technology, Iron, Chariots, you can even look ahead to Roman and Han China times to talk about the Germanic and Hunnic/Xiongnu migrations/invasions!

4. Would the world have been better off if the Persians had won the Greco-Persian Wars?
    a. Affirmative: Angelica Delamota, Angelica Casaceli, Misael Castaneda
    b. Negative: Alexandra Syta, Elhadji Keita, Karols Ali Castro
    c. Moderator: Deisy Guallpa, Bennett Wu

Description: The Greco-Persian Wars have traditionally been studied from the Greek/European perspective, and seen as a positive development, setting Greece on the path toward a Golden Age that would have a major cultural influence on Rome and by extension the whole of European culture. However, if the Persians had won, it might have been Persian culture, rather than Greek, that became the foundation of the culture of Europe. Would that have been better?

Suggested Research Topics: Achaemenid Empire, Cyrus, Darius, Centralized Government, Satraps, Royal Road, Zoroastrianism, Prohibition of Slavery, Cultural Diffusion, Cultural Tolerance, Greco-Persian Wars, Athens, Sparta, Direct Democracy, Athenian Democracy, Delian League, Athenian Empire, Parthenon, Greek Philosophy (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle), Greek Theater, Gender/Sexuality

5. Was Alexander truly great?
    a. Affirmative: Nikola Smola, Amantia Nako
    b. Negative: Fardeen Zaman, Peter Rodriguez
    c. Moderator: Danny Munoz, Priscilla

Description: Alexander of Macedon has traditionally been seen as a celebrated figure in European histories of Western Civilization. He is known as "The Great" after all. But many argue that he was actually not so great after all. This should be considered both in terms of his direct and indirect actions and impact.

Suggested Research Topics: Alexander the Great, Philip of Macedon, Darius III, Macedonian Phalanx, Alexander's tactics, his actions, his behavior, Conquest of Thebes/Egypt/Persia/India, Marriage to Roxanna (and Persian-Greek/Macedonian marriages generally), Alexandria(s), Lighthouse of Alexandria, Hellenistic Kingdoms, Hellenistic Culture, Cultural Diffusion, Archimedes, Pythagoras, Hellenistic Philosophies, overall legacy

HOMEWORK FOR NEXT CLASS

1. Bring in any class material I have given you, such as classwork or homework, that can be used to help you in this debate. You will, of course, have access to the textbook in class. I will also be returning work that has been handed in and not yet returned.
2. Find AT LEAST ONE outside source, other than the textbook or class materials, that you can use to help you prepare for this debate, and **submit it through the Google Form online!** You are encouraged to print the relevant portions of your outside source to bring to class to use in preparation. If do not have the ability to print from home, you can print from my classroom by printing from your sent mail.
3. After reviewing the relevant class materials and your outside source, use the space below to come up with three potential arguments you could use to support your position, or **either position for moderators**. You can write them on loose leaf and bring them with you to class.