

The War on Terror Debate Project

World History Final

Using the ideas, concepts and topics covered this quarter, you will be participating in a debate with your classmates. Your task the next few class periods leading up to the debate will be to adequately prepare yourself to speak and converse like a well-versed historian. This assignment will cover five standards.

STANDARDS

1. **Thesis:** In the Research Outline, you must respond to both Overarching Questions by creating a thesis that explains your key ideas and points, while referencing historical themes or concepts.
2. **Evidence/Historical Details:** In the Research Outline, you must respond to each Sub-Question by finding evidence to support your response or claim. During the debate, you must demonstrate your ability to discuss with good depth of reasoning and preparation, making specific and accurate references to evidence or examples from texts of other research.
3. **Historical Analysis:** In the Research Outline, you must add in-depth analysis and responses to each Sub-Question. During the debate, you must demonstrate an understanding of how the past fits into the “bigger picture” as you argue concepts, ideas and theories. You must make insightful comments that build upon others ideas or synthesize previous comments, claims and evidence from multiple perspectives.
4. **Social Studies Speaking:** During the debate you must work actively with peers to create a discussion that is respectful of all participants; asks questions that probe reasoning and evidence without attacking commenters; responds thoughtfully to diverse perspectives and demonstrates active listening and is undistracted during the discussion.
5. **21st Century Research:** In your Research Outline, you will need to gather sources and create a MLA formatted bibliography that cites the sources you consulted while finding evidence to build your argument.

Overall, you must first prepare for the debate by creating a Research Outline as detailed on Google Classroom. Second, you must participate in collaborative discussion using your research and ideas from this unit.

RESEARCH OUTLINE

There will be two groups that will be discussing different topics on Debate Day. You do not know what group you will be in until the day of and as such, you need to prepare to debate for both topics. There are two different topics, one for each group: The War on Terror and the United States Foreign Policy. For each topic you need to use the Google Doc posted on Google Classroom to complete the following tasks:

1. Respond to EACH Overarching Question by creating an argumentative thesis statement that reflects your key ideas and points while referencing historical themes or concepts. This means you need to create two thesis statements.
2. Respond to and research information on each of the accompanying Sub-Questions. Each question should be answered thoroughly and then backed up by evidence. Your evidence can either be gathered from notes and information learned in class or outside research.
3. Complete a MLA Bibliography for each referenced source.

DEBATE

On the day of the debate, come prepared with a printed out copy of your Research Outline and ready to participate in either debate topic with your peers.

DEBATE TOPICS

Two topics for each debate: The War on Terror and The United States Foreign Policy

OVERARCHING QUESTION #1

To what extent has the War on Terror been a success?

SUBQUESTIONS

1. In your opinion, are there any lessons to be learned from what happened on September 11, 2001? Explain.
2. Based on what you know, what is the greatest challenge facing the US in the War on Terror in the future? What have been the benefits and costs of the War on Terror?
3. How should the United States and international community respond to the threat of terrorism at home and abroad? How do you foresee our responses to terrorism and the situation in the Middle East changing in your lifetimes due to experiences from the War on Terror?
4. How effective are immigration bans in preventing terrorism? Do immigration bans do more to help or hurt the receiving country?
5. What role do you think that American citizens should play in national security? In your opinion, what, if anything else, should be done to promote a more secure America?

OVERARCHING QUESTION #2

What is the United State's obligation to the rest of the world?

SUBQUESTIONS

1. Is it the world's responsibility in fighting corrupt and oppressive governments? Do other stable powers like the U.S. and Britain need to interfere or should they be allowed to figure things out themselves?
2. Since World War II, the United States has practiced a foreign policy of confronting and pre-empting perceived threats in the name of fighting evil governments or movements. Review the foreign policy choices made by the United States in the past 60 years and discuss their benefits and consequences. What have been the benefits and costs of this conflict?
3. Many U.S. citizens perceive their country's role in the world as a promoter of freedom and justice. Yet, this image of the United States is not held by many people around the world. Identify current policies of the U.S. government that contradict the rhetoric of promoting freedom and democracy. How can the United States do a better job of improving its image to the rest of the world? How can the United States develop a better relationship with the Middle East, and how can this benefit both parties?
4. What is the difference between the U.S. being bombed and the U.S. bombing Middle Eastern countries?
5. Should the U.S. be involved in the Syrian Civil War? Do you think the U.S. is more likely to help or hurt?