Spring Semester Debate Topics

1. Was Manifest Destiny justified?
2. Was the stock market crash the primary cause of the Great Depression?
3. What was the primary cause of WWI?
4. Was the Espionage Act of 1917 a justified limitation on the freedom of speech?
5. Should the Federal Government have expanded its role in American society through the New Deal of the 1930s?
6. Should Germany have shouldered all of the blame for WWI?
7. Should the US have entered WWII significantly earlier than it did?
8. Are the Hawaiian people better off in the long run by becoming a state?
9. Should the US continue to amass its military arsenal (including nuclear weapons)?
10. Should the US have intervened on behalf of Cuba thus starting the Spanish-American War?
11. Should the US government sponsor and promote pro-war propaganda during times of war?
12. Whose method of protest was more effective, MLK or Malcolm X?
13. Is the Civil Rights era over?
14. What invention was more significant, the light bulb or the telephone?
15. Should Puerto Rico continue to be a US territory?
16. Is a dictatorship ever the best form of government?

**Assignments - 3 total days of prep (A days May 10th-16th)**

**Debates - May 20th and exam block - 3 each day (15 min each)**

**Day #1 - Wednesday, May 10th**

Brainstarter - Choose top three topics from list

Step #1 - Select a topic and a partner. **Brainstorm** with your partner what you already know about this topic and **brainstorm** questions you have. Define the key terms - Create form

Step #2 - Prepare and present a **30 second elevator speech** about your topic - use as initial evaluation for public speaking skills - create

HW - watch video and reflect on strengths and weaknesses

Step #3 - Find 2 credible sources that provide **background information** about this topic (ideally not taking a stand). Provide **link, title, and author** and why each source is credible. For each source, provide a **brief summary.**

Step #4 - Create a Google doc with your topic at the top and with two tables (each with two columns) - one column for **arguments on each side and the other for responses** and begin brainstorming arguments (and responses.) You need at least 4 different and specific arguments for both sides.

**Day #2**

Continue working on step #4

Step #6 - Find at least **2 more credible sources (at least 1 for each side**) that support your current arguments and provide new arguments. Add **research nuggets** to your table (including name and brief qualifications of the source.) Also, provide a **Works Cited entry** for each source at the bottom of the table

HW - Step #7 - Fill in any missing information for your table. You need at least **5 arguments for both sides** and **unique responses for each argument**. At least **2 of your arguments/ responses for each side need research nuggets or historical examples** to support them. **Conference with Mrs. Reddig** and make **revisions** based on her feedback

Step #8 - Present both an **argument and a response (using one of our rebuttal strategies)** and evaluate public speaking and the effectiveness of the strategy

HW - watch video and reflect on strengths and weaknesses (and progress)

**Day #3**

\*Step #9 - Share your arguments with someone who has a different topic for constructive feedback. Take **notes** during the conference and add **your 4 sentence reflection** at the bottom. Make any changes to your table.

Step #10 - Turn in the **revised table**

Step #11 - Work on **opening and closing statements**

Step #12 - Present **opening and closing statement**s and evaluate for public speaking