# **CLN3M**

# **Analyzing and Debating a Legal Issue**

Questions for debate: As a class we will choose 1 of the debate questions.

1. **Terminally ill patients should have access to physician assisted suicide.**
2. **Canada should reinstate the death penalty.**
3. **The voting age should be lowered to 16.**
4. **The government should restrict internet usage for those under 18.**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**Part 1 – Preparation**

1. You have been assigned to a team on either the “affirmative or yes” side or “negative or no” side of this debate in response to one of the questions above.
2. You will work with your team to complete thorough research and come up with compelling arguments to defend your respective positions on the issue.
3. You will have 3 periods of class time to prepare for your debate.
4. The arguments presented by your group must follow the debate format:
   1. Include a clear stance in reference to your assigned position
   2. References to the laws of Canada
   3. References to relevant cases
   4. Research that meets our Research Success Criteria
   5. Your own and professional opinions on your topic
5. Review the Debate Format on our class website.

**Part 2 – Debate**

This portion of your mark will be derived from your performance in the debate. You may hand in your notes for addition evaluation, but the large portion of your mark will come from the evidence you present at your debate, your ability to present the evidence and how you argue and respond to arguments. Review the Debate Success Criteria below.

Debate Success Criteria:

1. You speak clearly, confidently, and passionately
2. You use legal case law that you have researched.
3. You use deductive, abductive, and inductive arguments
4. You use rhetoric
5. You use evidence you have found from good quality sources

**Part 3 – Reflection**

You will write a ½ to 1 single spaced page reflection on your debate topic and performance. You must write in paragraph form but questions to consider include:

1. How did you perform in the debate? Where you satisfied
2. Do you agree with the outcome of the debate? Why or why not?
3. Do you agree with your team’s side of the debate? How do you personally feel about the topic?
4. Who was the star of your group? Why do you think so?
5. What would you do differently if anything?

Rubric for Evaluation

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Level 1 (50 – 59%)** | **Level 2 (60 – 69%)** | **Level 3 (70 – 79%)** | **Level 4 (80 – 100%)** |
| **Knowledge**  **Do you demonstrate knowledge of the legal issue behind your topic?** | **You demonstrate limited knowledge of your debate issue.** | **You have some understanding of the most important aspects of your debate topic.** | **You have a clear understanding of your debate topic.** | **You demonstrate deep knowledge of important aspects of your debate topic.** |
| **Thinking**  **Do you conduct research on your topic, including case law?** | **You find 1 source that you use effectively in your debate.** | **You find 2 sources you use effectively in your debate.** | **You find 3 sources you use effectively in your debate.** | **You find more than 3 sources you use effectively in your debate.** |
| **Communication**  **Do you clearly communicate during the debate?**  **Do you clearly communicate in your debate reflection?** | **You speak for less than 1 minute in your debate.**  **Your reflection lacks clarity.** | **You communicate clearly for 2 minutes on topic.**  **Your reflection has some clarity.** | **You communicate clearly for 3 minutes on topic.**  **You have few grammar and spelling errors and use paragraph form.** | **You communicate clearly for more than 3 minutes on topic.**  **You write clearly with 0 grammar and spelling errors and have detailed, well – written paragraphs.** |
| **Application**  **Do you argue and respond to arguments during the debate?**  **Do you reflect on your debate performance?** | **You present arguments with limited effectiveness.**  **You have a limited reflection on your debate.** | **You somewhat present and respond to arguments**  **You have some reflection on your debate.** | **You present and respond to arguments with considerable ability.**  **You have considerable reflection on your debate.** | **You present and respond to arguments with exceptional detail and depth of thought.**  **You reflect in excellent detail on your debate.** |