

Debate the Issues

Name: _____

An excellent way to demonstrate your understanding of the election issues is through a good, honest debate. You have seen some of the candidates debating the issues already, and this will be your opportunity to do the same. In the weeks leading up to election day, you will research and prepare for a debate on one of the major issues of the election (could be local, state, or national). Debates will take place during class time November 5th, the day before the election during the school day.

You will begin by exploring some of the topics, indicating your topic preference, and conducting research to support both sides of the debate. You will then prepare a written statement, one-page in length, single-spaced, for each side of the debate. You will prepare and practice to debate on either side of the issue. You're side will be determined and assigned on Friday, November, 2nd.

Timeline

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	23 Intro & Debate Topic Exploration	24 Debate Topic (Preference) Debate Format	25 Debate Topics Distributed + Time for Research ~ 45 min in each class.	26 Time for Research ~ 45 min in each class.
29 Begin Write-Ups. 2 sides of debate with citations.	30 Begin Write-Ups. 2 sides of debate with citations.	31 Fact Checking & Critique	1 Debate Preparation - Anticipating Questions	2 Debate Practice Sides of Debate Assigned.

The list of potential debate topics, which include both local and state propositions and general issues, such as gun control and job creation, are listed below.

Proposition 30 - Jerry Brown's Tax Increase for Education

Increases taxes on earnings over \$250,000 for seven years and sales taxes by ¼ cent for four years to fund schools.

Proposition 31 - Two year budget cycle

Creates restrictions on raising spending or making tax cuts, requires performance reviews of all state programs, shifts the state to a two-year budget cycle and requires all bills to be in print for three days before a vote.

Proposition 32 - Political Contributions by Payroll Deductions

Prohibits unions from using payroll-deducted funds for political purposes. Applies same use prohibition to payroll deductions, if any, by corporations or government contractors. Prohibits union and corporate contributions to candidates and their communities. Prohibits government contractor contributions to elected officers or their committees.

Proposition 34 - Repeals Death Penalty

Repeals death penalty and replaces it with life in prison without possibility of parole. Applies retroactively to existing death sentences. Directs money to law enforcement agencies for investigations of homicide and rape cases.

Proposition 35 - Increases Human Trafficking

Increases prison sentences and fines for human trafficking convictions. Requires convicted human traffickers to register as sex offenders. Requires registered sex offenders to disclose Internet activities and identities.

Proposition 36 - 3 Strikes Law

Revises law to impose life sentence only when new felony conviction is serious or violent. May authorize re-sentencing if third strike conviction was not serious or violent.

Proposition 37 - Labeling Genetically Modified Food

Requires labeling of food sold to consumers made from plants or animals with genetic material changed in specific ways. Prohibits marketing that food, or other processed food, as "natural." Provides exemptions.

Proposition 38 - Molly Munger's State Income Tax Increase on Education

Increases taxes on earnings using a sliding scale, for twelve years. Revenues would go to K-12 schools and early childhood programs, and for four years to repaying state debt.

Prop Z (SAN DIEGO)

A \$2.8 billion bond proposition that will enable San Diego Unified School District to maintain safe and productive learning environments for students during the state's ongoing budget crisis.

Issues

Gun Control: As a nation, we need to increase gun control.

Immigration:

- Option 1. We should approve the DREAM Act
- Option 2. We should increase the strength of our border.

Same Sex Marriage: Our country needs to pass legislation that guarantees same sex couples the equal right to marriage.

Campaign Contributions: There needs to be a cap on how much corporations and individuals can donate to a candidate's election campaign.

The Economy:

- Option 1: Taxes should be increased for individual earners earning over \$250,000.
- Option 2: The government should take a hands on role in job creation in the United States.

Federal Deficit: President Obama has the most effective plan for reducing the federal deficit.

Abortion: As a nation, we need to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Capital Punishment: The death penalty should be overturned as a violation of human rights.

Homeland Security:

Education: "A Chance for Every Child," Mitt Romney's proposed plan, is a better plan for education reform than Obama's current efforts.

Welfare: We need to reduce the amount we spend on welfare in the United States.

Health Care: Obamacare should be overturned.

Oil: We need to increase oil production in the United States in order to become energy independent.

Foreign Policy: President Obama should be held accountable for his inability to provide adequate security for embassy officials in Benghazi, Lybia.