

Philosophy 103

Identified

**Civic Discourse
Communication
Digital Literacy
Quantitative Literacy**

Assignment (Covers All): Formal Debate

Students will work in groups and participate in a formal debate that will take place in class. Each group will put together a presentation in which they defend a position on a topic selected in consultation with the instructor.

Each group will take turns trying to persuade the audience of the following:

- (1) their own position on the issue is true, using good arguments and evidence as support
- (2) their opponent's position is untrue because of a lack of good supporting arguments and evidence
- (3) the objections raised against their own group's position by their opponents are unsound, invalid, or implausible.

Prior to the day of the debate, students will have time in-class and out of class to research and formulate their arguments as a group. For the debate, a spokesman must be chosen to present to the class. This person will not be graded higher in virtue of their having presented, someone just has to do it.

The primary means of evaluation for this assignment will focus on your contribution to helping your group research and organize your presentation. This contribution will be largely peer evaluated, i.e. those students who are in your group will be evaluating your efforts to the success of your group's presentation. The average scores you receive from your peers, in conjunction with a grade that will be assigned based on the observations of the instructor will determine your grade for this part. The size of the group will depend upon the number students in enrolled in the class.