

Assignment -- Periodization Argumentation Brief

Objective: Debate the validity of a particular time period.

Requirements:

1. Be prepared to present BOTH SIDES.
2. Use specific evidence / examples.
3. Provide a counter-plan on the negative side. The affirmative must argue the Status Quo.

Advice:

As you think about periods, consider turning point dates, significant events, the overall essence of the time. Know that events that might fit that theme do happen outside the time, but the argument that the majority happens within can be a strong one.

Process:

1. Independently research and prepare your brief. (See attached sample.)
2. On the day of the debates, you will be paired off. One pair will be watched by another pair. Then you will switch.
3. The Debate: (the whole class will be operating on the same clock so start and finish with everyone else.)
 - Flip for sides.
 - Affirmative presents arguments for 3 minutes without interruption.
 - The negative will cross ex for 2 minutes. Ask and get answered as many good questions as you can in time allotted.
 - The Negative present arguments for 3 minutes without interruption.
 - The Affirmative will cross ex for 2 minutes. Ask and get answered as many good questions as you can in time allotted.
 - There will be one minute of silence for rebuttal preparation.
 - The Affirmative will have 1 minute to make a concluding statement.
 - The Negative will have 1 minute to make a concluding statement.
 - The Observers will write up a mini ballot.
 - Switch the Observer pair and go through above again!
4. Homework: Revise brief to turn in. It is OK to incorporate some of your partner's ideas, but try mainly to respond to their critiques so your arguments are stronger. You will be turning in both drafts of the brief. Revisions are an important part of the grade.

TOPICS

Choose from the following FIFTEEN time periods / topics (class of 30):

1. Age of Migration, 70,000 B.C.E. – 15,000 B.C.E.
2. Age of Agricultural Innovations 10,000 BCE- 1000 B.C.E.
3. Axial Age 500 B.C.E. - 500 C.E.
4. Age of Exploration 1450 – 1600

SEE BACK OF PAGE FOR MORE!!!

5. Exploding Technologies 1914- Present
6. Age of Social Change/ Revolution 1750 – 1900
7. Spread of Religions 200 CE- 1000 CE
8. Rise of the west 1750-1914
9. Age of imperialism 1850-1950
10. Age of Southernization 400 –1300
11. Age of Forced Labor Systems 1400- 1800
12. Search for Identity, 1800 –Present
13. Age of gunpowder, 1450 –1750
14. Age of the Atlantic, 1492 – 1940
15. Age of the Pacific, 1905 - Present

SAMPLE FORMAT:

The question

Neutral Explanatory statement (1paragraph)

Affirmative (Pro)

A. Why this periodization makes sense for this topic (3- 5 good reasons)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

B. Brainstorm at least 2 questions you anticipate you will get from the negative.
Respond to them.

Negative (Con)

A. Why this periodization does not work for this topic (3 good reasons)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B. Counterplan (a short statement on what time frame works better for this period
and why.

C. Brainstorm at least 2 questions you anticipate you will get from the affirmative.
Respond to them.

NAME:

Pair observed: Affirmative _____ Negative _____

Time/Topic they debated:

Observer Sheet

Rules for Observers:

1. Do not talk during their debate.
2. Take notes
3. Help them keep track of time.

Comments on Affirmative's arguments (be specific):

Comments on Negative's arguments (be specific):

What is your opinion on the topic?

Who do you think won? Why?

NAME:

Periodization Briefs EVALUATION

Preparation

Draft brief (content, form, evidence, strength of argument) /15

Anticipation of questions /10

Negative counter-plan /10

Presentation (peer and teacher review)

Ability to present succinctly and specifically /15

Persuasive, understandable (not too fast) speech /10

Observation

Insightful comments /5

Evidence used in reaching your own opinion and decision /10

Revised brief (content, use of new arguments, form) /25

TOTAL: /100