

IST 405 Team Debates

Each team will participate in a debate on a given topic. At each debate, two or three teams will present opposing sides of an issue. In two-team debates, each team has 8 minutes to make their opening statements, followed by up to 30 minutes of open debate and a 5 minute conclusion. In three-team debates, each team has 6 minutes to make their opening statements, followed by up to 30 minutes of open debate and a 4 minute conclusion. Order of presentation will be drawn on the day of the debates. During the open debate period, questions will be directed towards one team who will have 3 minutes to respond to the question and the other teams will each have 2 minutes for rebuttal. Questions may originate from the non-participating class members or the instructor.

Each team will be assigned their debate topics and times. As the debates approach, you should do some reading and research on the topic. Some relevant information will be provided, but do not limit yourselves to the information discussed in class. Meet with your team to prepare your arguments and decide who will present what material. Each team member must participate in the opening or conclusion as well as during the open debate. It is your responsibility to make arrangements to communicate with your team outside of class. Each team should prepare a brief PowerPoint presentation that summarizes their main points. Each team should also bring printed notes in case of technical problems.

70% of your grade for the grade for the debate will be based upon the team performance during the debate, 20% of the grade will be based upon your individual performance (e.g., how well you speak and conduct yourself during your portion of the presentation and debate), and 10% of the grade for the debate will be based upon your written comments and evaluation of the other debates held during the class. An additional bonus may be awarded to the team which receives the best overall reviews from the teams not participating in the debate.