

The Great Drug Debate

Driving Question: Should the United States take a strong or lenient stance on drug use in our society?

The Assignment

Each group will be assigned a controversial topic related to drugs. As a group, you will spend a few days in class completing research that supports the stance of your topic. All research should be gathered, cited in MLA format, put into a Powerpoint presentation, and prepared to present. The following is a list of the topics:

1. The drinking age of 21 years is appropriate
2. The drinking age should be lowered to at least 18 years
3. Marijuana should be an illegal substance in the United States
4. Marijuana should be made legal in all states in the United States
5. Smoking should be banned in public places, as in Ohio
6. Smokers should be allowed to smoke in public places if they choose, for it is their right
7. Welfare recipients should be tested for drugs before receiving federal benefits
8. Those who receive federal benefits should not be tested for drugs in order to receive benefits
9. Professional athletes should be punished for using PED's to gain a competitive edge
10. Professional athletes should be permitted to use PED's without suspensions
11. Drug dealers should receive harsh punishment, including jail time, for selling drugs
12. Drug dealers should be rehabilitated rather than sent to jail for selling drugs
13. Random drug screening should be instituted for high school students
14. Random drug testing for high school students is **NOT** a good idea
15. Community organizations should provide clean needles for IV drug users on city streets
16. Organizations should not provide free, clean needles for IV drug users on city streets
17. The BAC limit of .08 for age 21 and .02 for under 21 is safe and effective
18. The BAC limit should be lowered to .00 for all age groups to significantly reduce traffic accidents

Preparing for the Presentation

Most of the preparation can take place during our class time. Additional time may be required. You are responsible for this but I will be available for questions or passes to the library. Incomplete projects affect the WHOLE group.

How to Complete the Presentation

Use Bearworks, and use as many slides as you need. The format for the project is as follows:

1. Opening Statement- discuss the history of the issue, important points, any available data that might be helpful, public opinion, etc. This should be at least a few minutes in length; 1-2 slides should be enough
2. Supporting Points- find 2-3 arguments, per person, to support your topic. Include these points on your slideshow. One slide per argument. In-text citations required.
3. Conclusion- restate your stance on the issue and discuss the benefits of your beliefs. This should be similar in length to your introduction.

Sections 4-5 below do not appear on your slideshow but should be in writing, on note cards

4. Response To Rebuttal- the students in class will have an opportunity to challenge your stance on this issue and ask questions from an opposing viewpoint. Your group should be prepared to respond. As part of your research, you will prepare for these questions. All group members should respond to at least one question.
5. Rebuttal- prepare 3-5 rebuttal questions for the group with opposing viewpoint; you will ask those questions when that group presents. **DO NOT** ask during your presentation.

Due Date

The presentation is due on _____. Groups not ready to present that day receive a grade reduction of at least 20% of the points.

Time Limit

A timer will be running as you present. Each group will have approximately 12-15 minutes to present. This includes question/answer session from classmates. Once you reach that limit, you are done. There may be a penalty for presentations that fall short of the time limit, if it relates to lack of content on your part.

Grading Rubric

The grading rubric will include the following categories:

1. Communication- strong, confident voice; good talking pace; enthusiastic; good eye contact
2. Mechanics- correct spelling and grammar; use of MLA format with in text citations
3. Preparation- comfort with material; ready on due date; talks to audience vs. reading to them
4. Opening- informative introduction that covers the history of the topic
5. Supporting arguments- presents at least two arguments, **per person**, in the group
6. Closing- creates a solid closing statement with summary of main points of argument
7. Response to rebuttal- demonstrates an ability to respond to questions while you present
8. Rebuttal Questions- asks a minimum of two questions to opposing group
9. Teamwork- does equal share of work; equal role in presentation itself
10. Overall Effectiveness- considers how outsiders would view the overall project

Getting Started

1. Once you receive your topic, assign roles within the group and begin research
2. One group member opens a presentation on bearworks; share with group members and teacher
3. Start a works cited page on your slideshow
4. Begin the research portion of the project, citing in MLA format (in-text included) as you go
5. You must use multiple sources, including at least one database from the JHS library
6. Consider pictures and/or short video clips that can enhance the quality of your presentation

Summary of Your Responsibilities

1. Create a 1-2 minute opening statement for your topic; type on your slideshow
2. Find 2-3 solid arguments, per person, in support of your topic and place on separate slides
3. Create a conclusion that restates your belief and summarizes your main points
4. Come up with 3-5 questions to ask the group whose topic is not in support of your topic; **these questions should not appear on your slideshow**
5. Research responses that you plan to provide to rebuttal questions during your presentation; **these responses should not appear on your slideshow**

Presenter(s):
Comments:

Final Grade:

	<i>All Elements Present</i>		<i>Most Elements Present</i>		<i>Some Elements Present</i>		<i>No Elements Present</i>		
Quality of Verbal Communication speaker's voice is confident, strong, steady, & clear; consistently uses inflections to emphasize key points or create interest; talking pace appropriate	4		3		2		0	1	
Nonverbal Communication- 2x speaker appears confident; speaker faces the audience & maintains eye contact; engaging with the audience	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Preparation- 2x ready to present on due date; shows a comfort level with material when presenting; talks to audience vs reading to the audience; project fully completed	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Mechanics all citations in MLA format to support research; citations on each slide; presentation has no spelling or grammatical errors	4		3		2		0	1	
Opening solid introduction that covers history of the topic and important points	4		3		2		0	1	
Supporting Arguments- 2x researches and shares a minimum of two convincing, supporting arguments	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Closing concludes with supporting statements that highlights importance of the issue	4		3		2		0	1	
Response to Rebuttals responds appropriately to rebuttal questions asked by classmates	4		3		2		0	1	
Rebuttal Questions asks a minimum of two questions to main group opposing your topic	4		3		2		0	1	
Teamwork very consistently works on project in & out of class; is a very cooperative member of the group; equal participant in the presentation itself	4		3		2		0	1	
Overall Presentation Effectiveness exceptional & effective presentation; worthy of a 10 out of 10 by most judges	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

Total 60 points