## Lesson 32

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## **Debate and Grading Criteria**

#### Debate



Before the debate starts, audiences will vote



- First person: State your-side's position, and give evidences to support your statement.
- Second person: Identify areas of conflict, and answer questions that may have been raised by the first opposition speaker.
- Third person: Identify areas of conflict, and answer questions that may have been raised by the second opposition speaker.
- Fourth person: Answers questions that may have been raised by the 3nd opposition speaker, and give a conclusion.

#### Win or Lose

- In each debate, we will start with a voting among audiences.
- After the debate, we will conduct the voting among audiences again to check whether there is any change.
  - For example, assume that the first debate topic is: The government should encourage firms to develop AI.
  - Given this topic, we will ask audiences to vote on this topic. Assume the voting results: 6 audiences agree, 4 audiences disagree.
  - After the debate, we will ask audiences to vote again on this topic. Assume the new voting results: 5 audiences agree, 5 audiences disagree.
  - One audience is persuaded by the "disagree" team, so the "disagree" team wins.

#### Grades

- Total score of debates: 10 points.
- 10 points:
  - (5 points) The instructor gives each participant score based on their performance. The grading criteria will be shown in the next slide.
  - (4 points) The audiences for each debate will be given a grading table that shows the participant's name. Each audience has to give a score for each participant. Then, we take the mean value.
  - (1 point) The debate outcome. All members in the winning team will get 1 point; all members in the losing team will not get any point; being in a tie will be given 0.5 point each team.

## **Grading Criteria**

#### • Expectation:

- Review textbook and lecture notes and use theories in the debate;
- Do some research on your debate topic;
- Presentation.
- Criteria:
  - Prepare well for the debate.
  - Be polite to your team members and opponents, and have community awareness (Be responsible for taking your tasks) and emergency response.
  - Express statement within a time period (3 mins), and speak clearly and slowly.
  - Have evidences and reasons to support your statement.
  - Statement has a clear logical structure.
  - Statement are related to the evidence and economic theories discussed.

## **Group and Assignment**

#### **TO-DO list**

- I give you 5 mins to:
  - Know your teammates.
  - Decide your team leader.
  - Decide your debate sequences.

- Monday
  - Topic A: Group 5 v.s. Group 1
  - Topic B: Group 3 v.s. Group 4
- Wednesday
  - Topic C: Group 11 v.s. Group 9
  - Topic D: Group 8 v.s. Group 10
- Friday
  - Topic E: Group 12 v.s. Group 7
  - Topic F: Group 6 v.s. Group 2

**Debate Topic** 

#### **Debate Topic A**

- The government closed many "free-books" websites.
  - Pros are larger than cons. (Group 5)
  - Cons are larger than pros. (Group 1)

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• *Prompt*: Government do so to protect intellectual rights. However, many academic journals or textbooks costs more than hundreds dollars. Free-books websites allow scholars/students download these journals for free.

#### **Debate Topic B**

- Imagine: The government plans to publish a law to enforce paid maternity leave.
  - Pros are larger than cons. (Group 3)
  - Cons are larger than pros. (Group 4)

#### Paid Leave for New Mothers

The United States is one of eight countries without paid maternity leave, and the average length for those that have it is 29 weeks.



• *Prompt*: Paid maternity leave typically provides a set number of weeks or months for a worker to care for or bond with a new child and pay the worker's salary. It is usually targeted at female labor forces. Legalizing paid maternity leave might cause the firm to hire fewer female labor forces, leading to a gender wage gap. Someone is also concerned that providing paid maternity leave might cause labor forces to take advantage of it and have less incentive to work. However, without paid maternity leave, pregnant female labor forces have to work, and then it exerts a negative impact on their health and welfare.

### **Debate Topic C**

- The government should tax the rich more.
  - Agree (Group 11)
  - Disagree (Group 9)



• *Prompt*: The government should carry a guarantee of the right to life. Given that an additional dollar in a rich person's hand is worth less than a dollar in a poor person's hand, the government should redistribute the dollar from the rich to the poor to maximize society's total welfare. Besides, taxing the rich could also be beneficial for the rich. If the taxable income is used to compensate the low-income family, the crime rate will decrease, which could protect the high-income family's welfare. However, taxing the "winners" of the economic game discourages risk-taking and might negatively impact the rich people's property rights.

#### **Debate Topic D**

- Imagine: The government requires all citizens have health insurances.
  - Pros are larger than cons. (Group 8)
  - Cons are larger than pros. (Group 10)



• *Prompt*: Going without health insurance saves you money since you're not paying premiums, but it could put you at financial risk if you get injured or develop a serious illness.

#### **Debate Topic E**

- The federal government should increase the minimum wage.
  - Agree (Group 12)
  - Disagree (Group 7)



• *Prompt*: Minimum wage is an effective price floor. Raising the minimum wage could help some workers out of poverty and reduce wage inequality. However, many businesses cannot afford to pay their workers more and will be forced to close, lay off workers, or reduce hiring. On the other hand, raising the minimum wage could also cause living costs to rise.

#### **Debate Topic F**

- To ensure the dominant position globally, the U.S. should exploit oil resources nowadays.
  - Pros are larger than cons. (Group 6)
  - Cons are larger than pros. (Group 2)



• *Prompt*: The oil demand is great in the U.S. The pandemic caused a shortage of oil, which crushed the oil demands. It seems a time for the U.S. to explore the oil resources now. However, someone is concerned that the oil resources will not be sufficient to support future generations, so the U.S. should not explore its oils now. The supporters usually point out that most countries have started exploring oil substitutes, so there is a high chance that the new resources could replace oil before the oil is used up. Besides, the opponents concerned about the negative externailities imposed by exploring the oil resources, like climate changed if the U.S. explore oils.

### How to Do Research on My Debate Topic?

- Think about how this debate topic is related to concepts that we learned.
- Google your debate topic, and read evidences and reasons proposed by others, and summarize their points.
- Discuss with your teammates, and check whether the existed evidences and reasons make sense or not. (Important)
- Read existed literature in this debate field.
  - Here are some good journals:
  - a. American Economic Review
  - b. Journal of Political Economy
  - c. Review of Economic Studies
  - d. Quarterly Journal of Economics
- Show some statistics by using PPT, but make sure that you write down the references and the data sources on slides.

## **Practice Round**

#### **Debate Topic D**

- Imagine: The government encourages high tech firms continue developing artificial intelligence technology.
  - Pros are larger than cons.
  - Cons are larger than pros.



#### Debate

- Use your electronic devices to search this website: https://create.kahoot.it/my-library/kahoots/ 8a3090fd-72af-4201-bb66-57627612412f
- 2. Pin code
- 3. Create a nickname for yourself
- 4. Vote for this topic
- 5. Please do not close the Kahoot website, since we are going to use it after 15 mins.
- 6. Start the debate.
- 7. Each person has 3 mins.
- 8. Vote again.

#### **Debate Topic D**

- Imagine: The government encourages high tech firms continue developing artificial intelligence technology.
  - Pros are larger than cons.
  - Cons are larger than pros.



# **Q** & A