Debate

By Lawrence Chen

Out of Class (Instructor) | **Out of Class (Students)** | **In Class (Students)**

Begin Here.

Instructor assigns a group of four students.

Instructor prepares a debate question surrounding engineering, ethics and society and provides it to the students three weeks prior to the debate. Possible topics include: artificial intelligence, genetically modified organisms, Canadian oil sands, space exploration and the journey to Mars, commercial and recreational use of drones, the Volkswagen emission scandal, nuclear power, and cybersecurity the Internet of things.

Students write a three-page document explaining the supporting and opposing view points of the debate question and submit the assignment the night before to the course website. Students divide themselves into two groups of two (those supporting and those opposed).

Teaching assistant reviews the document before the beginning of the debate.

Students debate in the following sequence: Introduction of arguments (4 minutes for each side); rebuttals (3 minutes for each side); 2 minute recess for both sides to discuss concluding remarks; concluding remarks (2 minutes each).

Students answer questions from the teaching assistant based on their document submission or based on the debate and from the audience

Teaching assistant marks the debate and the document submission.

- Work in Groups
- Whole Class
- Writing
- Discussion
- Debate

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