Current Issues Research and Debate

Step 1: Choosing Political Parties

- Are you a conservative? Liberal? Moderate?
- Take a political values questionnaire to determine where you stand on the issues

Step 2: Choosing Committee Members and Issues

- Select your team. Find another person that shares some of the same values and viewpoints that you do. Combine with 2 people from the other side to form a team of 4.
- Take a political quiz to see which candidate you match closest with https://www.isidewith.com/political-quiz
- Research several issues and pick one that your group is interested in debating. Go to the following site to help you with some ideas: http://www.ontheissues.org/default.htm

Step 3: Researching Your Issue

- As you begin to research, come up with three to four questions that your entire group can agree to focus your debate on. Each side must have the exact same questions.
- Research – you should come up with 3-4 questions that will narrow your search on your topic. Find the answers to your questions. Try to be as thorough as you can. Attempt to support your arguments with details – data, quotes, facts, etc... Try to come up with 2-3 supporting details.
- Use the Databases link on the Library Home Page – Opposing Viewpoints, Gale and Ebsco provide reliable information for you to use.
- Turn in your questions, research and bibliography (MLA format) to Mr. Roiko

Step 4: Create a Pear Deck

- Your team of 4-6 will create a Pear Deck presentation that will be used to guide your debate.
- The Pear Deck must include the following: The 3-4 guiding questions to your debate, pictures, a youtube video on your topic (1-2 min), 3 interactive questions for your audience to answer using their personal device and a final page with your sources (MLA format)

Step 5: Organization of Debate

- You have 20 minutes to debate your bill or resolution
- Determine the amount of time you will be spending on each question
- Determine who will be speaking for each question. Everyone must participate!

Step 6: Debate

- Determine which side will go first
- Use your Pear Deck to help you guide your debate
- Focus on getting reliable information/research/arguments to your peers so that they can be more informed on your particular topic/issue.