

Debates: Robots in Society

Topics

- 1) The increased use of robots benefits society.
- 2) In space, there are certain jobs that must be done by humans.
- 3) Robotic pets are better than real pets.

Process

The class is broken into four teams. Two of the teams will be assigned the first topic and two the second. The teams will not know which side of the argument they will be taking until the day of the debate. On the day of the debates, the teams will be given 15 minutes at the start of class to assemble their arguments.

Rules¹

- Affirmative constructive speech: 10 minutes:
Each team member must speak.
- 5 minute break to assemble cross-examination questions.
- Cross-examination of first affirmative by one member of the negative team: 5 minutes
- Negative constructive speech: 10 minutes
Each team member must speak.
- 5 minute break to assemble cross-examination questions.
- Cross-examination of first negative by one member of the affirmative team: 5 minutes
- Ten minute break to assemble rebuttals.
- Affirmative rebuttal: 5 minutes
Team decides how many speakers
- Negative rebuttal: 5 minutes
Team decides how many speakers
- Affirmative closing statement: 2 minutes
- Negative closing statement: 2 minutes

General Instructions

- Notes are permitted, but no visual aides will be used.
- During the rebuttal, address the questions directly -- do not simply restate points made in the argument.
- Only state facts for which you have a reference in your bibliography.
- Timing is critical. Practice the arguments with your team (both sides, since you don't know which one you will be assigned) before class.

¹ Adapted from <http://rutlandhs.k12.vt.us/rhs/activities/Debate/rules.htm>