

Feminist Human Evolution Debate
DUE DATES...Variable depending on chosen topic...

- 1) Man the Hunter. Woman the Gatherer: **February 19**
- 2) Woman the Hunter: **March 18**
- 3) Obstetric Dilemma vs. Energetics, Growth, & Gestation: **April 22**

Goal: Work in a group of at least four to debate one of the topics above. Two group members should argue one side of the argument and the other two (if this is a four-person group) should argue the other side. The group should perform the debate and film it.

Why: Debating is a great way to do the following: 1) demonstrate your knowledge on a topic...both sides of a topic; 2) improve your public speaking/science communication skills; and 3) encourages problem solving and critical thinking.

Format: A filmed debate.

Teamwork Statement: you **HAVE** to work in a group of at least 4 individuals for this assignment.

Things you must turn in for this assignment:

- 1) Create a folder named with the last names of EACH GROUP MEMBER. This folder should be popped into [THIS GOOGLE FOLDER](#)
 - a. The video of the debate – one for whole group
 - a. Planning Sheet – see page 3 of this document – one for each side of debate
 - b. References used – one for each side of debate – these can be listed after your planning document
- 2) [Self-reflection](#) – EACH group member does this.

Debate Tips – [Adapted from Living Democracy](#) and [TESSA](#)

- 1) When you prepare for the debate, first brainstorm ideas. Then decide in which order you want to present your points, and assign them to a speaker. Begin and finish with a particularly strong and impressive point.
 - a. Each debater needs to be well versed in BOTH sides of an argument
 - b. Prepare yourself for any possible questions/challenges posed by opposition
- 2) You can repeat or vary a key argument to “hammer it home”.
- 3) The last speakers should sum up their side’s argument, highlighting three or four points. What should your audience keep in mind after the debate? If the debate is about a decision to be taken, make clear what your appeal to the audience is when they vote after the debate.
- 4) Speak freely. Don’t read your statement from any notes, but establish eye contact with your opponents and with the audience.

- 5) Treat your opponents with respect. Never insult a speaker, but work on his arguments.
- 6) Format Rules
 - a. The speeches and speaking time are divided equally between the two teams. Time allotment agreed upon by whole group.
 - b. Each team makes an opening statement they have prepared to argue their case. The sides speak in turn. Each side has a specified amount of time to speak (e.g. three minutes or five minutes). Each team member needs to deliver a part of the full opening statement.
 - c. Teams confer (time for conference needs to be determined by whole group) to prepare for rebuttal – which key points will you counter?
 - d. Then the teams will take part in the rebuttal – each member needs to provide a part of the rebuttal. Time allotment agreed upon by whole group.
 - e. Each team will ask questions of the other and answer those questions (time allotment agreed upon by whole group).
 - f. Closing Statements made by each group – each team member should contribute to this. Time allotment agreed upon by whole group.
 - g. Other Rules
 - i. The team cannot shift point of view (whatever their private).
 - ii. If a speaker makes a statement, they must be able to provide evidence or reasons to support the statement.
 - iii. Facts presented in a debate must be accurate.

Example Set Up (Using Woman the Hunter):

- 1) Opening Statements – each member of each team needs to contribute (in content and speaking)
 - a. Pro-Woman the Hunter – 5 minutes
 - b. Anti-Woman the Hunter – 5 minutes
- 2) Time for teams to confer – 5-10minutes
- 3) Rebuttal – each member of each team needs to contribute (in content and speaking)
 - a. Pro-Woman the Hunter team – 3 minutes
 - b. Anti-Woman the Hunter team – 3 minutes
- 4) Questions & Answers – each member of each team needs to contribute (in content and speaking)
 - a. Pro-Woman the Hunter team asks questions of Anti-Woman the Hunter Team – 5 minutes
 - i. Anti-Woman the Hunter team responds – 5 minutes
 - b. Anti-Woman the Hunter team asks questions of Pro-Woman the Hunter Team – 5 minutes
 - i. Pro-Woman the Hunter team responds – 5 minutes
- 5) Closing Statements – each member of each team needs to contribute (in content and speaking)
 - a. Anti-Woman the Hunter – 3 minutes
 - b. Pro-Woman the Hunter – 3 minutes

Debate Team Planning Sheet

Feel free to create a document that covers all of this in whatever format makes the most sense for you and your group.

Debate Stage	Speaker's Name	Argument	Potential Counter Argument	Notes
Opening Statement Part 1				
Opening Statement Part 2				
Rebuttal Part 1				
Rebuttal Part 2				
Questions prepared for opposing team				
Questions you expect opposing team to ask you				
Closing Statement Part 1				
Closing Statement Part 2				

Self-Reflection Questions in Case [Google Forms](#) Does Not Work

1. What did you learn?
2. What challenges did you face while completing this assignment?
3. How did you overcome these challenges?
4. How successful do you think you were with your final product?
5. What do you think you could have done better?
6. If you worked with a partner, how did you break up the workload? How did the partnership work? Were there any issues?