

# *The Great Magna Carta Debate*

## Directions:

1. You will be assigned ONE issue and ONE side to take on that issue
2. Divide your group in to 4 roles
  - a. Opening Statement – must present the opening statement to the class [1 person]
  - b. Oral Argument – must present your basic argument using evidence and examples [1-2 people]
  - c. Rebuttal – must look at the other sides argument and make counter-arguments using evidence and examples. [1-2 people]
  - d. Closing – must restate your opening thesis as well as bring up weak arguments from the opposition. [1 person]

## Issue #1 - Trial

King – The king feels that he has the sole right and duty to make the laws of his Kingdom. Since a king makes those laws, he should be the judge when those laws are broken and, therefore, has the right to give punishment on his subjects.

Nobles – The nobles feel that people should have input on what laws are created. Since the people make the laws, people who break those laws should be punished by a jury made up of people from a similar social class.

## Issue #2 – Land:

King – The King feels that because it is his kingdom, he has the right to take anyone's property if he feels that it will benefit the kingdom. The king believes that he has this right because he protects all the people's land.

Nobles – The nobles feel that people should be able to buy and own property inside a kingdom. Therefore, if people pay for a piece of land, the King has no right to come and take that land.

## Issue #3 – Taxes

King – The king feels that he has the right to raise taxes whenever he likes. The king feels that he must be able to do this so that he can raise an army whenever he needs to take care of a threat on his kingdom.

Nobles – The nobles feel that if a King needs to raise taxes, he must have the tax approved by the Nobles. The nobles, who are the representatives of the people, feel that they should have the right to approve or disapprove of taxes so that the King does not abuse his power.