

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## *How a debate works???*

### 1. Opening Statements (1 minute)

- Like an introduction to a formal paper, introduce yourself/team and the topic you will be debating.
- Tell what you are going to argue during the debate (like a thesis statement) and tell why your position should win.

### 2. Oral Arguments (2-3 minutes)

- Like the body of a formal paper, present the evidence that proves your position is correct.
- This argument should be very factual and persuasive.
- Opinions not backed by facts could be used to show the weakness of your case, so be careful!

### 3. Rebuttal Arguments (1 minute)

- Present counter evidence that shows: false, inaccurate, misrepresented, or weak points in the opposition's argument.

### 4. Cross Examinations (1 minute)

- As each team finishes its rebuttal, the other team has time to ask questions about the evidence presented in order to prove the invalidity of the argument.

### 5. Closing Arguments (1 minute)

- Like the closing paragraph of a formal paper, summarize the key points you presented AND focus on weak arguments presented by the opposition.
- Conclude with a persuasive argument that will win the debate for you even if you are losing based on facts!

### Other rules:

- It is not acceptable to interrupt the other side while they are speaking
- Take notes on what they say so you can respond when it is your turn.
- It is not acceptable to refer to the other group using mean or disrespectful names, it will make your group look desperate

Before moving on... In one sentence AND in your own words, restate each of the five steps to having a debate:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

# *The Great Magna Carta Debate – Preparation*

Directions: work with your group to prepare for your debate by filling in the sheet below:

1. What issue are you debating? (Write the issue in your own words)

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2. What side of the issue is your group assigned to – “nobles” or “King” (circle one)

3. OPENING STATEMENT - What is your basic argument? (rewrite the issue summary in your own words...this will be your opening)

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4. ORAL ARGUMENT - Come up with 4-5 arguments about why your position is the correct one to have:

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5. COUNTER ARGUMENT - Write down 2-3 ideas the opposing group might bring up and write counter arguments to those ideas

6. CLOSING – rewrite your opening statement in a way that concludes your argument.

