

The Magna Carta Debate Reflection

Directions: Respond to the questions below (2 points each)

1. Did your group win, lose, or tie in the debate? Why do you think that is?

2. What would you do/say differently if you had a second chance to debate the group?

3a Issue #1 – Do you think the King is right (correct) to say that since it is his Kingdom he can make the laws and give out punishment for the laws? Or, do you think the nobles were right (correct) to demand that they had a say in what laws are made and what punishment people should experience? Explain why.

3b. Today our President cannot make laws, he can only suggest laws. Laws have to be passed by Congress (Senate and House of Representatives), who represent different parts of the country. Do you agree with this system? If so why? Or, do you disagree and think that the President should be able to make laws as well?

4a. Issue #2 – Do you think that it is okay for the King to take anyone's property that is in their Kingdom in order to protect his land? Or, do you think the nobles were right to say the property can only be purchased, not taken – even by the King? Explain why.

4b. In America, the government can force people to sell their property to the government in order to complete certain project (for example, order that people move from their homes so they can use the land to build a freeway). Do you think it is okay that the government has this power, or do you think it is wrong for the government to have this power?

5a. Issue #3 – Do you think it is right for a King to raise taxes whenever he likes in order to protect the Kingdom? Or, do you think the nobles were right to expect that the king should first approve the taxes with their nobles, who believed they represented the people.

5b. In America, the wealthiest people have to pay higher tax rates than poor people (For example, if you make more than \$400,000 then 40% of what you make is taxed, but if you make \$30,000 or less, only 10% of what you make is taxed). Some people have suggested that all Americans should pay the same percentage of taxes, regardless of how much they make. Which system do you think is more fair to the country: paying taxes based on wealth, or having the same tax rate for all people?

6. Overall, do you think the nobles were right or wrong to take power away from the King? Explain