POLS 4133 International Political Economy

Debate Paper Guidelines

Spring 2017

The goal of the debate papers is to evaluate and critique major policy approaches to IPE topics. Therefore, you will evaluate the information on a contentious issue and then convince the audience that your opinion is valid and defensible. Your job is to take one side of the argument and then persuade your audience that the evidence validates your claims and refutes any counterclaims.

Guidelines for the papers are as follows:

1. Students may not select alternate topics. Specific questions for each debate will be given.

2. Each paper will be a maximum of three pages of text in length, not including a cover page or a bibliography. Your text should be no more than 3 pages, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, and 12-point Times New Roman font.

Your paper will be organized to include:

* An introductory paragraph that describes your thesis/position statement on the topic. Your position should be clear and based on facts rather than belief or opinion.
* At least two to three paragraphs giving relevant evidence to support your position. Each paragraph should focus on only one point of evidence. Paragraphs are typically organized from weakest point to strongest point.
* At least one paragraph that provides a refutation of the most significant counterargument to your position. Be sure to say why the counterclaim is not supported based on facts or false logic in the claim itself.
* At least one paragraph concluding your paper.

To help you organize the information in your papers, you might wish to consider the following questions as you read the sources and gather your evidence.

* What is the author’s main argument? What research question is the author trying to answer? What are the assumptions, explicit and implicit, upon which the author’s argument is based?
* What are the strengths and weaknesses of the author’s analysis?  Can you think of an alternative explanation for the author’s evidence?
* Do you agree or disagree with the author? How would you approach a similar puzzle? What questions still need to be addressed?
* What advice would you give to policy makers based on this reading?

3. Students must use the readings provided to form the basis of their evidence. Students may supplement these readings with additional evidence taken from credible sources or peer reviewed academic research. news Students must cite all sources with in-text citations and include full citations in a bibliography.

4. Students are expected to submit papers that have been carefully edited and are free from common mistakes in spelling, grammar, and formatting.

In grading your papers, I will be looking for evidence that you (a) clearly explain your thesis, (b) provide strong support of your thesis using evidence from the course, (c) provide a discussion of at least one counterclaim, (d) use concepts and themes from our course, and (e) follow writing conventions. You will also receive credit for (f) relevant and engaging class participation on the day of the debate.

NOTE: Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a reduction of points awarded.