Unit Activity - Online Debate Instructions

**Activity One - Online Debate\***

We are going to start out our consideration of the readings and content of this unit with an online debate. Here is how an online debate works:**\***

1. You will be assigned to small groups.

2. An affirmative and negative statement about the selected topic you must consider will be provided in the forum.

3. In a class of twenty (20) we would have two groups of ten (10). Each person will be assigned to a group as either a supporter of the affirmative or negative position.

4. You must construct your first argument using two or more references from the Unit Readings or from readings that you have discovered in your own investigations**.** The arguments are made in three rounds as described below.**\***

a. **Round One Initial Argument**- After you have constructed your first argument you will post your argument in the appropriate group forum and thread. Make sure your subject heading starts with either: AFFIRMATIVE POSITION or NEGATIVE POSITION, depending on the group that posts first.**\***

b. **Round Two First Rebuttal**- After each group member has posted their arguments, you must then attempt to rebut at least two arguments that take an opposite view to yours. (So if you argued in the affirmative, you must rebut two negative positions). Your rebuttal must be founded in at least one reference in the course literature or other literature you wish to introduce to support your position. **\***

c. **Round Three First Response**- If your initial posting was rebutted by a member of the opposition, then you must go in and defend your position and try and negate his/her rebuttal. If for some reason your initial statement was not responded to then feel free to go in and help defend or bolster one of your team-mate’s original positions.**\*** If time allows continue to respond to each rebuttal.**\***

OR

The debate can take one of two approaches; the asynchronous approach using only the discussion forum and the alternative one which utilises the technology to create a live presentation. In the live format, each team is required to create a Power Point presentation and share it during a synchronous session. In this synchronous format there is close adherence to the traditional debate format and the adjudicator uses a rubric to determine the score.

During the debate the tutor will act as the adjudicator for the process. At the end of the debate the instructor will summarize and if possible declare a winning team.**\***

(The statement to be considered during the debate is to be posted in the designated discussion forum). If the debate is being done as a weekly/ by-weekly activity, it is suggested that students be given the first two days of the week to meet with their team members and seek clarification from their facilitator on what is expected. A synchronous session is ideal for sharing the expectations with the class.

**Debate Instructions (for Facilitators)\***

During the debate (the tutor) will act as the adjudicator for the process. At the end of the debate you should summarize and if possible declare a winner.**\***

**THE STATEMENT:**The statement or moot should be created ahead of the debate process to allow time for research and team preparation.**\***

**POSITIVE POSITION:**Learners assigned to this group must argue the positive position and provide arguments, references and examples that support their position that the selected statement is ultimately true using facts and proofs to support their position.**\***

**NEGATIVE POSITION:**Learners assigned to this group must argue the negative position and must provide arguments, references and examples that support their position that this statement is ultimately wrong and that if the elements of the statement are applied it would be detrimental for all concerned. **\***

Some guidelines for sharing with students when posting:\*

1. Stay within your group thread/ forum to begin and rebut arguments.

2. Ensure you post your first and last name, viz initials.

3. Ensure your subject heading reads either Positive Position or Negative Position.

4. Support your positions and arguments using the literature from the course or other relevant sources.

5. After you have posted your first argument check your debate site regularly. As noted in the instructions if you arguing in the positive then respond to the negative position for that group and try and negate your opponents' arguments. You should as a minimum post at least two opposing responses.\*

**Give the exact dates when the exercise will occur**;\*Posts made after this deadline will not count toward completion of the assignment (***Exception***:*permission is granted by the facilitator and with full knowledge of the affected debate teams and the Course Leader. Such allowance will only be on consideration of unavoidable occurrences on the part of the participant and should be taken on a case by case basis*).

HAVE FUN!!!!!!