Magnetic Debate: Sparta vs. Athens

**Purpose:** We will be performing a persuasive debate in class. The citizens of Athens and Sparta are to convince the citizens of Argives to join them in allegiance. The fate of your city is dependent on which city-state you align yourself with.

**Groups Tasks:**
- Group 1: Defending Athens: 10 group members
- Group 2: Defending Sparta: 10 group members
- Group 3: Interrogation Committee: 5-7 group members
- Group 4: Citizens of Argives: 5 group members

**Preparation:**
To prepare for this debate you will be allowed two research/prepare two days in the media center. Each group will have different expectations, which are outlined below.

**Group One and Group Two:**
Each person in your group is to research and prepare a one to two minute persuasive argument for an assigned topic. You must divide up the ten different topics that are available to you. The topics are listed on the Category Form.

You will write a one page persuasive argument on your topic. This will be turned in the day you present your argument.

Once you have completed your one page argument you will prepare note cards to present your position. Your presentation should last between one and two minutes. You will be penalized for not fitting this time constraint.

You will use 3-5 note cards to present your persuasive speech. Each note card may only contain 4-5 key words. You will turn these note cards in after your presentation is over. You will be marked down if a note card has more than 4-5 words.

You may, but are not required, to have props for your presentation. Examples: Pictures, bar graphs, circle graphs, togas, etc. These modes of presentation should be used to substantiate what the group debates, rather than drive the debate itself.

**Group 3:**
The interrogation committee will generate a list of questions for the symposium. The quality of your questions will be graded. You are required to ask three questions per topic and per group.

You will be required to write a one-page response as to what position you would ultimately take after the symposium is over.
Group 4:
You must individually create a list of 2-3 criteria for each of the topics presented. (What are you looking for a side to present or persuade you of?) Once the presentations are over you will write a one page response based on the criteria you have created.

Each student will fill out the chart as you listen to the debate. This will also be collected once the debate is over.

The Magnetic Debate will run as follows:
• The Athenians will be sitting of one side of the room facing the Spartans. The interrogation committee will be seated at the front of the classroom facing the center of the room.
• The citizens of Argives will be sitting in chairs in the middle of the room. There will be a piece of tape to show where you begin. After each speaker presents you will move your desk in the direction that you start to agree with.
• Whichever side of the line has the most Argives will receive extra credit for their persuasion.
• Each presenter will present to the audience followed by questions from the interrogation committee. The opposing side will then get two minutes to rebut your argument.
• Once the rebuttal is done then the rebutter will commence presenting. Your presentation will be followed by questions from the interrogation committee and a rebuttal from the opposing side.
• This format will continue until each side has presented all of their arguments.

Grading Rubric
Each of the criteria is worth 3 points making this assignment worth 30 points overall.

• Strong introductory statement that captivates the audience:
• Use of primary source quotes to substantiate their position:
• Supportive statements that offer specific examples:
• A conclusion that leaves them with something to remember:
• Good eye contact that scans the audience:
• Clear and succinct language:
• Portrays emotions that proves that they really care:
• Organization of information and thoughts shows thorough preparation:
• Work effort during class time (Each day is worth three points):
If you are absent on the day of the presentation you will be required to complete the following assignment.

You will write a 4-5 page paper dissecting each side of the arguments presented in class. Compare and contrast each side of the argument. You are not required to defend the Spartan or Athenian side. Please stay neutral in your paper.

Topics to compare:
1. Government and Politics/Citizenship
2. Morals and Ethics
3. Military and Naval Strength
4. Slaves: Treatment and Population
5. Attitude Towards Visitors/Trade
6. Role of Men
7. Role of Women
8. Role of Boys
9. Role of Girls
10. Entertainment