

AOS/NIES 171 Prof. Hitchman Spring 2018 Name _____

Oral Assignment #2 “The Great Debates” 5 points May 1 and 3

Please hand this in on the last day of class, Thursday May 3.

During the last part of the course we will focus on what we should do as a global society regarding the issues we've discussed in class. You choose the statements to be debated! Attached is a list of suggested statements to debate. It would be the most fun and interesting if you came up with new statements that you would like to debate.

On Thursday, April 26 you will select six debate statements, by voting. Then we will check the (randomized) list which tells you if you are on the pro or con side and which statement you are debating. There will be four people per side, or 8 people per debate statement. You will have some time in class on Thursday to work on this with your team. You may find yourself advocating a position which you disagree with. This can help us to understand other points of view and to be more persuasive in explaining our own point of view.

To receive 5 points, please come to class both days of the debates, participate in your debate, and turn in a brief description of your contribution to your side of the debate statement.

GLOBAL CHANGE DEBATE STATEMENTS: Vote for six statements.

1. The U.S. should cut the military budget to fund environmental programs.
2. Nuclear energy is a viable solution to the current energy problem.
3. Impoverished people cannot concern themselves with environmental issues.
4. Education is the key to solving environmental problems.
5. The U.S. should intervene in countries with tropical deforestation.
6. The definition of economic value should be expanded.
7. Global warming will likely improve global agricultural production.
8. Computers are good for the world.
9. The U.S. should regulate companies' environmental impacts more carefully.
10. The U.S. should impose a large gas tax.
11. The worth of human civilization is greater than the worth of biodiversity.
12. Carbon trading is good for the planet.
13. We need to change our habits radically to help the planet.
14. Capitalism is destroying the earth and corporate globalization is at the core of this crisis.
15. The U.S. decision to sign the Paris climate accord is the right decision.
16. Global warming is causing increasingly extreme weather.
17. Buying green is becoming a useless fad.
18. Biofuels alleviate greenhouse warming.
19. Genetically modified foods are good for the world.
20. Yes, you can gain 10 pounds by eating a pound of chocolate.
21. Traditional universities are obsolete.
22. The truth is easier to agree upon with increasing availability of information.
23. Electronic books are better for the environment than paper books.
24. ** Your debate statement! **