Round 1

Alcohol is not a serious problem in our society, because on average, people drink less than they did 30 years ago.

All students should be taught the dangers of drinking while they are young, because habits developed while young are more persistent.

Alcohol abuse can contribute to poor health but it does not have a significant impact on mortality rates.

People who drink to excess are hurting themselves, but it is a personal choice and others should not interfere.

Round 2

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a single plastic bag can take 10 to 20 years to decompose.

Only a small percentage of plastic bags end up being recycled.

The production of plastic bags emits dangerous chemicals in the air.

Charging people for plastic bags at the grocery store will make them more likely to bring their own reusable bags.

Round 3

Vegetarians typically have fewer health issues than carnivores.

Countries with low rates of obesity typically eat little or no meat.

Fruits and vegetables are naturally fat free and help people maintain a healthy weight.

The natural human diet is vegetarian; the earliest humans lived in a diet of plants.

Round 4

Over the past 10 years, countries with the lowest standard of living have consistently had the highest rate of civil unrest.

According to the United Nations, even small improvements in a country's infrastructure can greatly increase its economic growth.

Studies have shown that improving access to clean water strongly decreases the rates of infant mortality.

People in countries with the highest levels of economic development tend to be the happiest.

Round 5

Many stores are on the verge of closing because people don’t go to the city center.

A survey of city residents has shown that many avoid the downtown area because of the traffic, and go to nearby malls where it is safer to walk.

Jenna Smith, head of the downtown business association, has seen studies showing that “pedestrian friendly Saturdays” have been very successful in San Aramo, which is similar to our city.

Research shows that people prefer to go to indoor malls, where they can escape from the weather; malls are cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

Round 6

The Environmental Protection agency estimates that 60% of plastic water bottles are not recycled.

Plastic water bottles should be banned due to their negative environmental impact.

Most studies have shown that tap water is as pure and clean as bottled water.

Rather than buying individual servings of plastic water bottles, people should buy personal water bottles and refill them.

Round 7

According to the baseball team’s end-of-the-year report, trash clean-up costs 90% of the money earned from drink sales.

All the costs of clean-up mean that everyone has to pay more for tickets to a baseball game.

Banning drinks is the only way to keep clean-up costs under control.

Those who leave litter behind at baseball games should be fined and banned from the stadium.

Round 8

According to the Associated Press, 75% of all anonymous sources would not have come forward if journalists had not guaranteed their anonymity.

Anonymous sources are the single best source of potentially scandalous information.

A journalist has the responsibility to protect the identity of anonymous sources at all costs.

Most anonymous sources are seeking to blow the whistle on dangerous activities or unfair employment practices.

Round 9

The high property taxes in our town are causing families to leave because they can no longer afford to live here.

We cannot continue to fund town services without raising property taxes.

The town has no control over property taxes; 25% of the tax bill is set by the county, not by the town.

We must increase property taxes to keep the quality of our schools high.