

CS 3206 – Social Issues and Professional Practices

Prefinal Debate Activity Guidelines

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Debate and Oral Arguments

There will be two (2) debate activities for this semester. The 1st Debate Activity will constitute your Pre-mid Exam (will form part of your Class Standing), and the 2nd Debate Activity will constitute your Prefinal Exam (20% of the final grade). There will also be a final oral arguments activity before the end of the semester (20% of the final grade).

1st Debate Activity –

February 23 (Thu)

2nd Debate Activity –

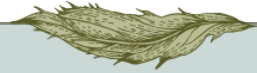
April 11 (Tue)

Final Oral Arguments Activity -

May 5 (Fri)



The class should be divided into two (2) teams



- **PLAINTIFFS (Team Wife)**

- Affirmative Side.
- Will argue for the nullity of the marriage.
- Should have four (4) speakers/debaters.
- Other members of the group will act as legal researchers.
- The speaker for the closing arguments shall be the Wife.

- **DEFENDANTS (Team Husband)**

- Negative Side.
- Will argue for the validity of the marriage.
- Should have four (4) speakers/debaters.
- Other members of the group will act as legal researchers.
- The speaker for the closing arguments shall be the Husband.



Proposition

Both teams will be given a case study from which a proposition or controversy will be derived.

Each team will then have to prepare and argue the merits of their side on the basis of the proposition.



Issues



Necessity

- Discusses the presence or absence of an inherent flaw of the proposition.
- Answers the question “why should the proposition be sustained or rejected?”
- There shall be 1 Necessity Speaker for each team.

Beneficiality

- Discusses the advantages or disadvantages of adopting or rejecting the resolution.
- Answers the question “what are the advantages or pitfalls in adopting the proposition?”
- There shall be 1 Beneficiality Speaker for each team.

Practicality

- Discusses the feasibility of the proposition.
- Answers the question “how attainable or impractical is the proposition?”
- There shall be 1 Practicality Speaker for each team.

Closing Argument (Wife/Husband)

- Gives a brief statement on the main points/arguments of the team.
- Final opportunity to appeal to the wisdom and discernment of the Judge.



Duration of the Speech

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Speech of the Speaker – | 4 minutes |
| Interpellation by the opposing Speaker – | 3 minutes |
| Closing Arguments – | 4 minutes |

*The Judge can interrupt the speaker and interject questions within the speaker's time limit. When the Judge is interrogating the speaker, the latter's time will still continue to run.



Position Paper



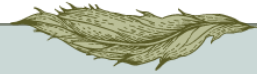
- On or before 11:59AM of April 10, 2023 (Mon), each team should submit via Canvas a position paper clearly, thoroughly and comprehensively elucidating their legal, moral, philosophical, and/or other bases in support of their arguments.
- The position paper should observe the requirements set forth under Sections 3(a) and 4 of the Efficient Use of Paper Rule (A.M. No. 11-9-4-SC).
- Proper citations should be included through the use of **footnotes**. There should be **no separate References page**.
- The position paper should be **at least twenty (20) pages**, excluding the cover page and facts,
- The position paper will be graded separately (Possible Grade: 0 - 100)

Possible Bases for the Arguments



- Philippine laws
- Philippine Jurisprudence (Cases decided by the Philippine Supreme Court)
- Canon Law (Law of the Church)
- US Jurisprudence (Cases decided by the US Supreme Court)
- International Treaties, Covenants, and Instruments/Documents
- Principles of Public International Law
- Books, Papers, and Articles written or published by reliable local and international authors
- Other reliable and verified sources

Flow of the Arguments



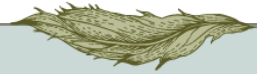
1. Necessity Speaker (Wife) - Speech
2. Necessity Speaker (Husband) – Cross-examination
3. Necessity Speaker (Husband) – Speech
4. Necessity Speaker (Wife) – Cross-examination
5. Beneficiality Speaker (Wife) – Speech
6. Beneficiality Speaker (Husband) – Cross-examination
7. Beneficiality Speaker (Husband) – Speech
8. Beneficiality Speaker (Wife) – Cross-examination
9. Practicality Speaker (Wife) – Speech
10. Practicality Speaker (Husband) – Cross-examination
11. Practicality Speaker (Husband) – Speech
12. Practicality Speaker (Wife) - Cross-examination

13. Closing Arguments (Wife)

14. Closing Arguments (Husband)

-End-

Grading System



- If the debate activity is **successful** and **productive** (i.e. position papers are well-written; the debaters are prepared and taking their roles seriously; spectators are well-behaved)
- If the debate activity is a **failure** (i.e. position papers are poorly drafted; the debaters are underperforming; the spectators are disorderly)

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Winning Team – | 1.0 – 1.5 |
| Losing Team – | 2.0 – 2.5 |

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Winning Team – | 2.0 – 2.5 |
| Losing Team – | 3.5 (5.0) |

Attire



Judge

Judicial Robe



Debaters

Business Formal (with blazer)



Researchers/Spectators

Business Casual



Judges' Profile



Lady Judge 1

- Juris Doctor, USC – Law Batch 2022
- BS Accounting Technology, USC Batch 2016, Cum Laude
- Certified Public Accountant
- Certified Bookkeeper and Cost Accountant
- Compliance Officer, Church of Christ at Peace Valley (Lahug)



Lady Judge 2

- Juris Doctor, USC – Law Batch 2022
- BS Biology, Cebu Doctor's University Batch 2017, Dean's Lister
- Legal Assistant/Researcher, Espina-Villanueva Law Firm



Reminders:

- The Class Representative shall act as the timer, rule enforcer, and court interpreter. The grade of the Class Rep shall be equivalent to the grade of the winning team.
- Each team is allowed at most two (2) laptops to be used only by the researchers, which may have internet connectivity via pocket wifi or mobile hotspot.
- No other devices aside from the 2 laptops and pocket wifi or device used as mobile hotspot shall be allowed.
- The researchers may silently hand over notes to the debaters, provided that the recipient debater/s is/are not giving his/her/their speech or closing arguments or conducting his/her/their cross-examination.
- The actors (i.e. debaters and researchers/spectators) should wear the appropriate attire.
- The actors are prohibited from shouting, laughing, booing, disrupting, performing a standing ovation, or exhibiting any behavior which may interrupt or impede the orderly conduct of the debate activity. However, the actors may clap their hands at appropriate times during the course of the proceedings to manifest their support for their debaters.
- The speakers/debaters for the 2nd debate activity should be different from the speakers/debaters of the 1st debate activity.

Reminders (con't):

- Any violation of the foregoing or any conduct on the part of the actors which disturbs or, to the mind of the judge, may tend to disturb the debate proceedings shall warrant a deduction of .1 from the overall grade of the team to which the violator belongs.
- The judges for the 2nd debate activity are given a wide latitude in giving grades to the teams. For instance, the judges may decide to give 1.5 to the winning team and 2.0 (5.0) to the losing team, depending on the teams' performances.
- The judges will give initial scores for the position papers on April 11 (Tue). The researchers will then be given the opportunity to answer the judges' questions relative to the content or form of their position papers before the debate proper will commence. The initial scores may or may not increase or decrease on the basis of the researchers' responses. The final scores for the position papers will be given after the debate activity.
- The course instructor will not interfere with the grading of the judges.
- The overall grade of the groups will be the average of their Debate Grade and Position Paper Grade, less the deductions, if any.



Case Study:

The Case of the Problematic Spouses

Synopsis:

Gran met Lean in a gathering organized by their alma mater. They eventually became sweethearts, and Lean asked that they elope. Gran initially refused, saying that he was young and jobless. Lean's persistence, however, made him relent. They left Cebu and sailed to Dumaguete that month, with Gran providing their travel money and Lean purchasing the boat ticket. However, confronted with difficulties, they decided to go back to Cebu. Lean proceeded to her aunt's house and Gran to his parents' home. Eventually they got married. Gran was prohibited from getting out of the house unaccompanied and was threatened by Lean and her aunt. After a month, Gran escaped from the house, and stayed with his parents. Gran's parents wanted them to stay at their house but Lean refused and demanded that Gran already get his inheritance and that they should have a separate abode. Lean then said that it was better for them to live separate lives and they then parted ways. Eventually, Lean filed a petition for the annulment of his marriage to Gran on the basis of the latter's psychological incapacity under Article 36 of the Family Code.





Proposition:

The marriage between Lean and Gran should be declared void *ab initio* under Article 36 of the Family Code.



Preliminary Proceedings - Script



Interpreter: All rise. (Judge enters the room)

Judge: (Judge bangs the gavel. Everybody sits down) This Court is now in session. Please call the case, Mr. Interpreter.

Interpreter: Good morning, your honors. Today's case is Civil Case No. 1-CS3206-2023 entitled "*Lean 'Tinkerbell' Belarmo-Verylayo vs. Gran 'Daddy' Verylayo for Declaration of Nullity of Marriage under Article 36 of the Family Code*", your honors.

Judge: Representations?

Debaters: Good morning, your honors, and may it please the Court. My name is Counsel [name of debater], and I'll be speaking for our team's [N/B/P/C], <after all debaters> and we are representing the [Plaintiff Wife/Defendant Husband], your honors.

Judge: Are you ready, counsels?

Debaters: Yes, your honors.

-Start of Debate Proper-



End

God bless and prepare well
