

## **Oxford-Style Debate Instructions**

**Preparation (Thursday July 25, meeting starts at 9 am)**

**Five separate rooms are provided to spread out. Three of them can accommodate more than one group.**

- Lecture room 4 in lecture building, Group 1 and 3
- Seminar room, Nussallee 19, Group 2 and 4
- Seminar room, Nussallee 21, Group 5
- Computer room, Nussallee 21, Group 6 and 7
- Library room, Nussallee 21, Group 8

### **1. Form Groups**

- Eight groups (4 topics) of 3-5 students each; we will randomly assign all students to eight groups, and you will be randomly assigned to topic and position.

### **2. Assign Topics:**

- (Group 1) Labels are ineffective and we should limit their use; (Group 2) labels provide important information to consumers, and we need more of them!
- (Group 3) Farmers should receive payments for environmentally friendly management practices; (Group 4) farmers should receive payments for delivering environmental outcomes!
- (Group 5) We should tax GHG emissions; (Group 6) we should have market-based instruments/emissions trading!
- (Group 7) We should tax food consumption that has negative external effects (sugar, animal products); (Group 8) we should tax producers that generate external negative effects!

### **3. Assign Positions:**

- Each topic has two groups (with opposing theses/views): one **pro** and one **con** (see topics).

### **4. Research:**

- Spend the day researching and preparing arguments.
- Thomas and Jens are available for consultations with groups in the morning (to assist in finding data/studies/answer questions).
- Gather facts, statistics, and examples to support your position. Include at least three peer-reviewed articles in your arguments.
- Prepare an opening statement with a presentation.

**Debate Day (Friday July 26, Half-Day Event):**

### **1. Opening (10 minutes):**

- Brief introduction to the debate format and rules by Thomas and Jens.

### **2. Debate Sessions (30 minutes per topic):**

- Each topic gets 30 minutes.

### **3. Debate Format:**

- **Pro Opening (5 minutes):** The pro group presents their arguments.
  - **Con Opening (5 minutes):** The con group presents their arguments.
  - **Pro Rebuttal (2 minutes):** The pro group responds to the con group.
  - **Con Rebuttal (2 minutes):** The con group responds to the pro group.
  - **Q&A (10 minutes):** Audience asks questions; groups respond.
  - **Closing Statements (2 minutes):** Each group has 1 minute to summarize their points.
4. **Breaks:**
- Short breaks between each debate session (5-10 minutes each).
5. **Closing and Voting (15 minutes):**
- Audience votes on which group presented the strongest arguments for all eight groups. The top two groups will be announced publicly and receive a small reward.

### **Schedule for Friday**

**9:00 - 9:10:** Opening and Instructions

**9:10 - 9:40:** Debate 1 (pro and con group)

**9:40 - 9:50:** Break

**9:50 - 10:20:** Debate 2 (pro and con group)

**10:20 - 10:30:** Break

**10:30 - 11:00:** Debate 3 (pro and con group)

**11:00 - 11:30:** Break

**11:30 - 12:00:** Debate 4 (pro and con group)

**12:00 - 12:30:** Closing and Voting

**12:30 - 13:00:** Announce Winners and Wrap-up