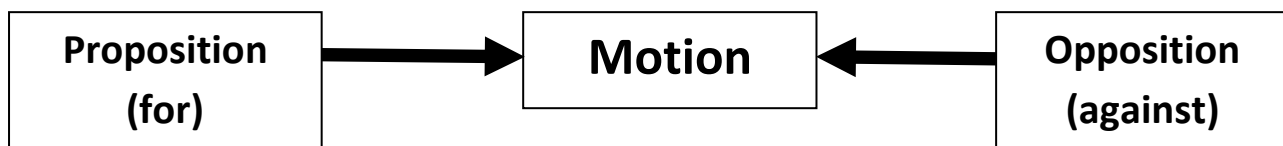




What is Oxford Style Debating?

This is one of several debate styles. This debate style is used in the Oxford Union at the University of Oxford. It will help you to think logically, will improve your critical thinking, and teach you how to be more persuasive. The goal is to persuade the audience to come over to your side.

1. The debate begins with an argument or opinion. This is called a “motion”.
2. One side is FOR the motion. One side is AGAINST the motion.
3. The side that is FOR the motion is called the “proposition”. The side that is AGAINST the motion is called the “opposition”.



Debate Format (short version)

1. The “proposition” gives an introduction and speaks **for** the motion (*this is prepared beforehand*).
2. The “opposition” gives an introduction and speaks **against** the motion (*this is prepared beforehand*).
3. The audience can then ask any questions that attack the proposition or the opposition side.
4. The “proposition” counter argues after listening to the “opposition”. (*this is done spontaneously*)
5. The “opposition” counter argues after listening to the “proposition”. (*this is done spontaneously*)

Part 1 - Preparation

1. Write 1 motion together with your partner. (“This house believes...”). The motion should be something that is interesting, current, and controversial.
2. **You and your partner MUST disagree on the motion.**
3. If you’re the “proposition” side, write 4 arguments to support the motion and 2 to counter it.
4. If you’re the “opposition” side, write 4 arguments to counter the motion and 2 to support it.
5. DO NOT SHARE YOUR ARGUMENTS WITH EACH OTHER.
6. Part of being a good debater is also knowing how the other side thinks.

Part 2 - Writing your opening statement (4 paragraphs)

1. Write your opening statement.
 - Paragraph 1 – Introduction paragraph to introduce the topic and give its history (3-4+ sentences).
 - Paragraph 2 – Arguments FOR the motion (5+ sentences). / **Arguments AGAINST the motion if you are the Opposition (5+ sentences).**
 - Paragraph 3 – Arguments AGAINST the motion and **why** you disagree with them (3+ sentences). / **Arguments FOR the motion and why you disagree with them if you are the Opposition (3+ sentences).**
 - Paragraph 4 – Conclusion (summarize what you said)(3+ sentences).
- Write your name, date, motion (This house believes...) and whether you are the proposition or opposition on the top of your paper.
- Arguments FOR or AGAINST must include at least 4 sources/citations.

Example “motion” and opening statement:**Motion:** This house believes that pizza is the most delicious food ever.**Proposition – Opening Statement (Note, this example is shorter than what your assignment should be).**

P1	Pizza is one of the most popular foods in the world. It was invented in Italy, but today it is eaten in many countries. In Korea, it is especially popular because of all the delicious toppings you can put on it.
P2	<u>First</u> , pizza is very convenient to eat because there are many pizza restaurants everywhere in Seoul. <u>Second</u> , the taste is so good because you can order any kind of topping that you like. <u>Third</u> , you can have the pizza delivered to your house in a short amount of time. <u>And last</u> , you can share pizza with your friends and family.
P3	Some people think that pizza is very oily and greasy. Some people also think that pizza is too salty and unhealthy. However, even though pizza may be these things, it is okay to eat it in moderation and still enjoy it.
P4	Pizza is so popular. It’s convenient, tastes good, and can be delivered to your house. Even though some people say it’s unhealthy, it can make you and your friends feel close when you eat it together.

Details

This will count toward your “Assignment” grade and is worth 20 points. This will prepare you for the Oxford Debate project that will be due Week 13. You will primarily be graded on the strength of your arguments and organization.

You must also use proper citations **(MUST HAVE 4 or more)** and include a bibliography. The citation style should be APA.

Final copy must be typed in MS Word and DOUBLE SPACED with NAME, DATE, MOTION, and PROPOSITION/OPPOSITION clearly stated.

Please do NOT use Hancorn Office to write your assignment, even if you save it as a “Word” file!