### Student Instructions

During this formative assessment, you will be constructing a debate on Kialo. You'll be placed into groups for this assessment. This debate is not publicly accessible or visible. You will need to create an account if you do not have one already. If you want credit for completing this activity, you will need to choose a display name that I can identify.

**Step 1: Create a Thesis**

You will receive an invitation link to a Kialo debate. You will see a question at the top of the page. Your first step will be to create a thesis. Each *group* will need to post *one* thesis, so there will eventually be *two* different ones in response to the question. The thesis needs to be a single sentence that makes a claim and is relevant to the question. Two is enough. Please make sure that your group knows which thesis you have created. You can send them a message on Canvas to let them know.

Step 2: Initial Arguments

You will be arguing in favor of your group’s thesis, and against the other group’s thesis (yes, even if they are similar). You should create at least **three** claims that support your thesis and **at least three claims** that contradict the other group’s thesis. Pay attention to the arguments that your classmates are making. If someone has made a claim that you were planning on making, you can provide additional evidence or support for that point in the form of a Pro beneath their claim. Links to outside research can both be used to make effective Pros.

Step 3: Follow-Up Arguments

Once your classmates have added their initial claims, you should start to respond to the arguments on the other side. Read through what the other group has written against your thesis and write at least two Cons to those claims. Likewise, read through what the other group has written in favor of their thesis and write **at least two Cons** to a those claims as well. As long as you meet this minimum, you are now free to add as many claims to both sides as are appropriate.

Step 3: Vote  
Use the voting feature to vote on the strength of each thesis of the debate as well as how well each claim supports it. Think not only about your personal views on the thesis as a whole, but about how strong you judge individual claims to be, irrespective of what side they are on.

Grading

The purpose of this assignment is not to “win” the debate, and I will not grade based on my opinion of which side is “right.” The purpose of the assignment is to make the best argument that you can. You are not being graded in competition with your classmates. It is possible for everyone to do well on an assignment, and it is possible for everyone to do poorly. You will be graded on both the debate process and the final product.

In grading process, I will consider the following questions:

* Did you complete each part of the assignment in a timely fashion?
* Did you interact respectfully with your fellow participants?
* Did you show a good faith effort to improve the argument?
* Did you play a leadership role in the success of the debate?

In grading the final product, I will consider the following questions:

* Content: Did you and your classmates correctly identify and explain the relevant positions?
* Content: Did you and your classmates use classroom material when it was appropriate, and did you correctly convey what that material meant?
* Format and organization: Did you and your classmates articulate the whole argument in a clear way?
* Format and organization: Were individual claims clear and concise?
* Format and organization: Did you and your classmates organize the overall tree in a way that made sense?
* Grammar, style and tone: Were claims grammatically correct and stylistically appropriate?

Note that with the final product points, points will generally be assigned to the whole group. However, if one or more members showed particular leadership, and contributed to the content I may grade them more highly (thus, even if a particular group does not meet the expectations of the assignment, it is still possible for you to get full credit if you did everything you could to make the group successful). By the same token, if one or more members created particular obstacles to the group (e.g. initial claims that were misrepresented the material, sloppy grammar and mechanics, unclear claims that the group needed to spend time fixing), I reserve the right to lower their grade relative to the rest of the group.