

## Policy Public Debate Assignment

### POLS 4000 Active Learning

This assignment will be worked on as a full class. We will work with the civic engagement and discourse group Braver Angels to select a debate topic and craft varying positions. Braver Angels will create the online, live video forum and facilitate the debate. They will take on all the technical elements of this project. Members of the class will present their sides and help others to engage in a debate on the topic. This is an opportunity to present information in a compelling, research-backed approach, while also engaging in active listening. It is not about one side winning but instead of creating a space to have difficult disagreements and discussions and to work to engage in them in a way that is productive. Our class will also work to promote the debate and invite other students and community members to attend virtually.

### Selecting the Topic

- Submit potential topics
- Discuss the topics as a class for their potential to work in a debate, their relevance to Texans, and your interest level in the topics.
- Vote on the topic

### Deciding Logistics

Determine as a class when the debate will be held and how long it will be.

Determine needed roles for the debate and create teams to support.

- We will have two spokespeople who present for each side at the beginning of the debate, and then it is opened to the full audience for discussion. We will likely want to create teams to help those presenting with research and approaches. Others may focus on promotion. We will discuss as a class and collectively decide on ways to support this project, so each person has a role within a team.

### Grading

Because this is not a traditional assignment, grading will not be traditional. There is strong potential for everyone in the class to make an A. However, the roles we decide as a class will guide whether each student participated as expected and requested by the class. I will have a say in a portion of your grade and the students in your team will also provide feedback.