**DEBATE FORMAT & RUBRIC**

Debating is a formal, ritualized way of settling disagreements. Instead of yelling or fighting, people prepare their arguments in a structured logical way and present them objectively. Just as important, they and their opponents are forced to anticipate and think about the other side's point of view, in order to prepare a response.

Debating is a foundation of our civilized society. We have formal debates in the Provincial Legislature and the Federal House of Commons. People in our society have radically different ideas on how to run the country but after debate between the government and the opposition, a compromise is hopefully reached which benefits the greatest number of people.

Students who learn how to debate, are often more open to other people's points of view, have sharper critical thinking skills and know how to settle disputes with dignity. This is an important skill to have when discussing bioethical issues in genetics and biology.

The format of our debates will be as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Speaker** | **Time** | **Who** | **What** | **Details** |
| **1** | 2 min | PRO | Introduction | Main thesis, we are going to show you, define topic |
| **2** | 2 min | CON | Introduction | Main thesis, we are going to show you, define topic |
| **3** | 2 min | PRO | List Proof | Supporting facts, statistics, quotes |
| **4** | 2 min | CON | List Proof | Supporting facts, statistics, quotes |
| **5** | 2 min | PRO | Rebuttal to other group | Prepared counter arguments, quotes, facts, on your feet response to speakers 2 and 4 |
| **6** | 2 min | CON | Rebuttal to other group | Counter arguments, quotes, facts, on your feet response to speakers 1 and 3 |
| **7** | 2 min | PRO | Final Summary | Last chance at re-rebuttal, summing up. last appeal |
| **8** | 2 min | CON | Final Summary | Last chance at re-rebuttal, summing up. last appeal |

You will sign up for your first debate date on the sign-up sheet provided. You will actively debate two times this school year. The other students who sign up for the same date will be your debate group. When it is your day to debate, you will follow the format described for your grade. You will research both sides of the topic and on debate day, you will flip a coin to determine which side you will argue. When it is NOT your debate day, you will still research the topic to become an informed audience member. Non-debaters will conduct research, choose a stance on the bioethical question and write a one-page essay stating and defending their position. Essays will be scored using the same debate rubric with the “Respect for Other Team” criteria omitted. The debate rubric can be found on the backside of this reference sheet.

Record your debate partners below:

**Revealed: William's Indian ancestry. DNA tests show future monarch has clear genetic line to the former 'Jewel in the Crown' from Diana's side
By Mario Ledwith for the Daily Mail Published: 20:58 EDT, 13 June 2013 | Updated: 19:45 EDT, 14 June 2013**

DNA testing has revealed that Prince William will become the first British monarch of Indian ancestry.

A clear genetic line has been drawn between the Duke of Cambridge and a half-Indian woman, potentially marking him as the first King whose bloodline is descended from the country. Analysis of saliva samples on relatives of Prince William revealed the link between the second in line to the throne and a distant relative from his mother’s family.

The revelation will prompt calls for the 30-year-old prince to make his maiden visit to India, following in the footsteps of his parents who travelled there in 1992.

The genetic link with India is believed to originate from Williams’s great-great-great-great-great grandmother Eliza Kewark. Although often described as Armenian, DNA analysis has revealed that she was at least half-Indian and is known to have lived in the country’s western region. Scottish scientists established the link after discovering that Eliza’s descendants carried a rare strand of DNA - known as mitochondrial DNA - which can only be passed on by a mother.

Only people from the Indian subcontinent have been found to carry the particular strand of DNA. It has been recorded in 14 other people - all Indian, apart from one Nepalese native.

The tests were carried out by genetics expert Jim Wilson, from the University of Edinburgh and a group called BritainsDNA, who said that the princes would be unable to pass the DNA to their children. It has not been revealed which relations of William supplied the saliva samples to allow the DNA to be tested.

Princess Diana’s maternal aunt Mary Roach told The Times: ‘I always assumed that I was part-Armenian so I am delighted that I also have an Indian background.’

