

In this assignment your group will collaboratively create a videotaped debate about one of two issues we read about this week. If you don't want to participate in this, you can write a short essay instead.

Debate:

Divide your group into two teams of three (if your group has fewer members, adjust accordingly). Each team takes one side (not necessarily the side you agree with). Prepare in advance and then videotape a debate structured this way:

Round 1: Each side states its position, 2 minutes for each side.

Round 2: Each side responds to the opposing position, 2 minutes for each side.

When planning your debate, keep in mind that two other groups will be asked to evaluate your debate based on:

1. Was the presentation clear and systematic? Regardless of whether or not you agree with the conclusion, did the team give a coherent argument in a clear and succinct manner?
2. Did the team avoid ethically irrelevant issues? Or was the team preoccupied with issues that are not ethically relevant or are of minor ethical relevance to the case?
3. Did the team's presentation clearly identify and thoroughly discuss the central moral dimensions of the case?
4. Did the team's presentation indicate both awareness and thoughtful consideration of different viewpoints, including especially those that would loom large in the reasoning of individuals who disagree with team's position?

If you want to practice debating on a different topic before videotaping, that is fine.

About the video: we don't want high production values or fancy edits, just point and shoot. Be sure you test that the audio and video are working before you start the debate! Upload your video to either a public or a password-protected location. You will need to make this information viewable to the groups that will be reviewing your video. (YouTube has [an unlisted link capability](#), its private setting requires that viewers have YouTube accounts so don't use that. Vimeo has [a password protection facility](#).)

To turn in Monday 10/21 in class:

Each group should make one post to piazza with the information below. Those who want to keep it private can post it just to the instructors. We will share the information only with those groups assigned to review that group's debate.

Also in class turn in a sheet of paper that lists:

1. Your group number
2. The question debated
3. The names of each student that participated and the role they took on the debate
4. The url for the video and any password information needed for accessing it

Short essay option:

Write three paragraphs debating one side of the argument of statement 1 or 2. Turn in **3 paper copies** in class. Be sure to include your name on the paper. Do your own work on this. If you take this option, you will be asked to critique two other students' writeups in the next class, which is why we need 3 copies.

The Questions To Debate:

Choose between these two statements as the topic of your debate:

1. Our society is getting ever more polarized politically. Therefore, algorithms that automatically personalize and recommend news and other socially important content should not always provide a mix of points of view, no matter what the reader's stated preference is.
2. Virtual attacks (in addition to online name-calling) should be protected free speech.

Statement 1 refers to the Garrett and Resnick reading. For more background on point 1, see this recent commentary in the New York Times: [It's Not Just Political Districts. Our News Is Gerrymandered, Too.](#) David Carr, Oct 12, 2013.

Statement 2 refers to the Dibbell reading.