

2019 Summer Global Leadership Seminar
The Rise of Political Populism
Monday, July 8 – Friday, July 12, 2019

Debate

Thursday, July 11, 2019
10:20 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Based on our studies and research, is political populism is a threat to Democracy?

In response to the debate prompt, students will be divided and assigned to one of the following two groups. In preparation for the debate, students should take note of their assigned group, read through the general background resources, as well as all group-specific resources.

- **Group 1: Affirmative Group**
“Based on our studies and research, yes, political populism is a threat to democracy.”
- **Group 2: Opposing Group**
“Based on our studies and research, no, Political Populism is not a threat to democracy.”

Agenda

10:20 – 10:40 a.m.

Prepare Opening Statement

Students work together in an assigned sub-group to draft an opening statement defending their position. Students should take the last 5-10 minutes to synthesize their group’s opening remarks as a whole. Each sub-group elects 1-2 representatives to present the entire group’s opening statement.

Opening Statement: *Introduce the topic in a way that supports your position. Provide supporting evidence. The last sentence of the introduction should be your “thesis” or main objective.*

10:40 – 11:05 a.m.

Present Opening Statement (8 min. each)

Each sub-group’s elected representatives present their entire group’s opening statement to the at-large plenary. Fellow group members take notes on opposing groups’ arguments for use during the rebuttal period.

Presentation Order:

- 1) *Affirmative Group*
- 2) *Opposing Group*

11:05 – 11:25 a.m.

Prepare Rebuttal

Students representing the “Affirmative Group” finalize a rebuttal representing the group as a whole. Moreover, students representing the “Opposing Group” finalize one rebuttal representing the group as a whole. Each group elects 1-2 new representatives to present their rebuttal.

***Rebuttal:** Respond to and criticize the arguments presented by the opposing side. Prove that the other side’s logic and arguments do not make sense. Provide sound counter-arguments.*

11:25 – 11:40 a.m.

Present Rebuttal (5 min. each)

Each group’s newly elected representatives deliver a rebuttal to the at-large plenary. Once again, fellow group members take notes on opposing groups’ rebuttal for use during closing arguments.

Presentation Order:

- 1) *Opposing Group*
- 2) *Affirmative Group*

11:40 – 11:55 a.m.

Prepare Closing Statement

Students work in their respective groups (Opposing or Affirmative) to prepare a closing statement that reaffirms their position. Each group elects 1-2 new representatives to present their rebuttal.

***Closing Argument:** Summarize your team’s main arguments. Emphasize the strongest points made throughout the debate. Make sure to include facts to support your position and address any counter arguments.*

11:55 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

Present Closing Statement (5 min. each)

Each group’s newly elected representatives deliver a closing argument to the at-large plenary.

Presentation Order:

- 1) *Affirmative Group*
- 2) *Opposing Group*

12:10 – 12:20 p.m.

Closing Remarks / Evaluations

Judges deliberate, select and announce the winner of the debate as well as confer awards for excellence in debate performance.

Resource Guide

Questions to Consider:

- What defines a democracy? What are the different types of democracies? How does American democracy compare to democracies around the world? What institutions enhance a democracy and which institutions threaten a democracy?
- Is populism, by definition, anti-democratic? Or do leaders use populism for anti-democratic purposes?

General Background Resources:

(Definition) Definition of Democracy

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/democracy>

(Article) The Meaning of Democracy

<https://dlc.dcccd.edu/usgov1-1/the-meaning-of-democracy>

(Quotes) Quotes About Democracy

<https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/what-democracy>

(Article) How Does Populism Turn Authoritarian: Venezuela is a case and point

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/01/world/americas/venezuela-populism-authoritarianism.html>

(Op-Ed) The Problem with Populism – The Guardian -

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/17/problem-populism-syriza-podemos-dark-side-europe>

(Article) The Populist Challenge to Liberal Democracy – Brookings Institution -

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-populist-challenge-to-liberal-democracy/>

(Article) Five Views: Is Populism Really a Threat to Democracy? – London School of Economics

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europpblog/2017/07/24/is-populism-really-a-threat-to-democracy/>

(Video) Does Populism Threaten Democracy? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHEyZ4H1y8M>

Group 1: Affirmative Group Resources – Political Populism is a threat to Democracy.

(Article) What Populists do to Democracies – The Atlantic -

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2018/12/hard-data-populism-bolsonaro-trump/578878/>

(Article) How Dangerous is Populism to Democracy – 21st Century Global Dynamics

<https://www.21global.ucsb.edu/global-e/april-2018/how-dangerous-populism-democracy>

(Video) Is Something Wrong with Democracy?

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/100000005333526/problem-with-democracy.html?module=inline>

Group 2: Opposing Group Resources – Political Populism is not a threat to Democracy.

(Article) How Populism can be turned into an Opportunity, Not a Threat. – The Conversation - (2018)

<http://theconversation.com/how-populism-can-be-turned-into-an-opportunity-not-a-threat-96934>

(Video) Is Something Wrong with Democracy?

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/100000005333526/problem-with-democracy.html?module=inline>

(Article and Audio Segment) The Case for Populism – CBC - <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/the-case-for-populism-1.4980285>