

2020-2021 Debate Series
***Ensuring Equity and Efficiency in Addressing Climate Change:
Public Sector vs. Private Sector***

Debate Self-Facilitation and Resource Guide

Central Question: Which sector, public or private, can ensure the greatest equity and efficiency in global climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts?

In response to the above 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 and read through both the general background resources and all group-specific resources. Students should take notes on the resources provided and may do additional research if they choose in order to help strengthen their arguments during the debate.

- **Group 1: Team Public**

*“Based on our studies and research, **public sector** approaches to the climate crisis possess the greatest chance of effective mitigation and adaptation outcomes while ensuring equitable outcomes for all.”*

- **Group 2: Team Private**

*“Based on our studies and research, **private sector** approaches to the climate crisis possess the greatest chance of effective mitigation and adaptation outcomes while ensuring equitable outcomes for all.”*

Debate Resource Guide

Tips for Preparing

The World Affairs Council has provided a number of general background resources, as well as team-specific resources below. Please read and review these resources as preparation for the program. We recommend that you come to the debate prepared with notes on these resources so you are ready to craft well-thought, detailed statements with your team members in the allotted time. Students should note that some of the general background resources are opinion pieces or may be partisan, and were purposefully chosen as such in order to help strengthen students’ understanding of both sides of the central argument.

It is also important to consider the other team’s potential main arguments and talking points as a means of strengthening your assigned team’s arguments and talking points. Finally, you may want to conduct additional research outside of these resources, but we ask that you practice good digital literacy and utilize vetted resources from reputable news or analysis organizations. Are you not sure if a site is vetted and reputable? Discuss with fellow debaters or talk to your teacher/faculty adviser.

Questions to Consider _____

- What actions need to be taken to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change? What steps have already been taken to mitigate and adapt to these effects?
- Why is it important to consider equity and efficiency when discussing how to address climate change? How can both the public and private sectors work to ensure equity and efficiency in their climate change solutions?
- What steps have the public and private sector already taken to address climate change? How do the approaches taken by the public and private sector differ?
- How can the public and private sectors work together to address climate change? What are the unique benefits of public sector climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts? What are the unique benefits of private sector climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts?

General Background Resources

(Article) Experts Call for Climate Change Debate to Move Beyond Settled Science and Focus on Action

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/experts-call-climate-change-debate-move-settled-science/story?id=73739694>

(Report) The Challenging Politics of Climate Change

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-challenging-politics-of-climate-change/>

(Report) Private and Public Sector Responses to Climate Change

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2679929>

Useful Definitions

- [Equity](#)
- [Efficiency](#)
- [Adaptation](#)
- [Mitigation](#)
- [Public Sector](#)
- [Private Sector](#)

Group 1: Team Public Resources – “Based on our studies and research, **public sector** approaches to the climate crisis possess the greatest chance of effective mitigation and adaptation outcomes while ensuring equitable outcomes for all.”

(Article) The Market Won’t Change Us from Climate Disaster. We Must Rethink Our System

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/nov/19/climate-crisis-markets-economic-system>

(Report) States Are Laying a Road Map for Climate Leadership

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/reports/2020/04/30/484163/states-laying-road-map-climate-leadership/>

(Executive Order) President Biden Takes Executive Actions to Tackle the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/27/fact-sheet-president-biden-takes-executive-actions-to-tackle-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad-create-jobs-and-restore-scientific-integrity-across-federal-government/>

(Article) The Market Won’t Change Us from Climate Disaster. We Must Rethink Our System

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/nov/19/climate-crisis-markets-economic-system>

Group 2: Team Private Resources – “Based on our studies and research, **private sector** approaches to the climate crisis possess the greatest chance of effective mitigation and adaptation outcomes while ensuring equitable outcomes for all.”

(Article) How the Private Sector is Stepping Up on Climate Change

<https://www.greenbiz.com/article/how-private-sector-stepping-climate-change>

(Opinion) Government Action Isn't Enough for Climate Change

<https://theconversation.com/government-action-isnt-enough-for-climate-change-the-private-sector-can-cut-billions-of-tons-of-carbon-79728>

(Report) Private Sector Engagement to Address Climate Change and Promote Green Growth

<https://www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/Policy-Brief-4-Private-Sector-Engagement-to-Address-Climate-Change-and-Promote-Green-Growth.pdf>

Sample Virtual Program Agenda (1 hour and 30 minutes)

3:30 - 3:40 p.m.
10 mins

Introduction and Rules Presentation (Main Room)

3:40 – 4:00 p.m.
20 mins

Teams Meet and Prepare Opening Statement (Breakout Rooms)

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.*

4:00 – 4:10 p.m.
10 mins

Present Opening Statement - 5 min. each (Main Room)

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) *Team Public*
- 2) *Team Private*

4:10 – 4:20 p.m.
10 mins

Prepare Rebuttal (Breakout Rooms)

Students representing the “Public Group” finalize a rebuttal representing the group as a whole. Moreover, students representing the “Private 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.*

4:20 – 4:30 p.m.
10 mins

Present Rebuttal - 5 min. each (Main Room)

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) *Team Private*
- 2) *Team Public*

4:30 – 4:40 p.m.
10 mins

Prepare Closing Argument (*Breakout Rooms*)

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

4:40 – 4:50 p.m.
10 mins

Present Closing Argument - 5 min. each (*Main Room*)

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

Presentation Order:

- 1) *Team Public*
- 2) *Team Private*

4:50 – 5:00 p.m.
10 mins

Presentation of Winning Team (*Main Room*)

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

Thank you to the Subak Family Foundation, the 2020-2021 World Affairs Council of Philadelphia Student Debate Series Program Sponsors!