



2021-2022 Student Debate Series
Universal Basic Income
Preparation & Resource Guide

Thursday, February 17, 2022
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Hybrid Program

Central Question: "Should the United States implement some form of a Universal Basic Income (UBI)?"

In response to the above debate prompt, students will be divided and assigned to one of the following two teams. In preparation for the debate, students should take note of their assigned team and read through both the general background resources and all team-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.

- **Team Affirmative**

*"Based on our studies and research, **yes**, the United States should implement some form of a Universal Basic Income."*

- **Team Opposed**

*"Based on our studies and research, **no**, the United States should NOT implement some form of a Universal Basic Income."*

Debate Preparation & Resource Guide

Tips for Preparing

We have 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 Series program prepared with notes on these resources, as well as a draft opening statement, so you are ready to craft well-thought, detailed statements with your team members in the allotted time. 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

Read the following questions prior to reading/viewing the resources below. Then, answer the questions to the best of your ability according to the information you found during your research. These questions are meant to serve as a starting point for crafting your arguments and statements during the debate.

1. What is Universal Basic Income? What are some of the different forms that Universal Basic Income (UBI) can take?
2. Outline some of the basic arguments for and against UBI, based on the information presented in the General Topic Background Resources.
3. How has the COVID-19 pandemic shaped the conversation and debate around UBI in the United States and other countries? From your assigned team's point of view, should the pandemic serve as an example as to why the United States should implement some form of UBI?
4. From your assigned team's point of view, do the costs of implementing some form of UBI in the United States outweigh the benefits? Why or why not?
5. Are there other countries or municipalities that can serve as a good example as to why or why not the United States should implement some form of UBI?

Draft Opening Statement

After conducting your research using the below resources (and any additional resources you may find) and answering the above Questions to Consider, craft an opening statement for your team's position on the debate question. 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.

Rebuttal and Closing Statements

Students do not need to prepare either of these statements prior to the program, but should be aware of the statement structures.

Rebuttal Statement

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.

Closing Statement

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.

General Topic Background Resources

- [The Long Weird History of Universal Basic Income - And Why It's Back](#) (Investopedia) - Article, Topic Overview
- [Universal Basic Income Explained](#) (Kurzgesagt - In a Nutshell) - Video
- [Why everyone is talking about free cash handouts - an explainer on Universal Basic Income](#) (CNBC) - Article
- [Universal Basic Income \(UBI\) - Top 3 Pros and Cons](#) (Britannica ProCon.org) - Article
- [Everywhere basic income has been tried, in one map](#) (Vox) - Article

Team Affirmative Resources – “Based on our studies and research, **yes**, the United States should implement some form of a Universal Basic Income.”

- [4 reasons cities should embrace Universal Basic Income](#) (World Economic Forum) - Article
- [Universal Basic Income: Key to Reducing Food Insecurity and Improving Health](#) (Drexel University Center for Hunger-Free Communities) - Policy Brief
- [Support is growing for a Universal Basic Income - and rightly so](#) (The Conversation) - Opinion

Team Opposed Resources – “Based on our studies and research, **no**, the United States should NOT implement some form of a Universal Basic Income.”

- [The math is clear - Universal Basic Income is a terrible idea](#) (Insider) - Opinion
- [Generation Z Should Fear a Guaranteed Income](#) (Bloomberg) - Opinion
- [Universal Basic Income May Sound Attractive, But If It Occurred, Would Likelier Increase Poverty Than Reduce It](#) (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities) - Opinion