



2023 Summer Global Leadership Seminar

*The Geopolitics of Water*

Monday, July 10 - Friday, July 14

Policy Debate Preparation & Resource Guide

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

**Central Question: “Is the privatization of water utilities effective in countries and communities across the world?”**

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 their 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**, privatization of water utilities is effective in countries and communities across the world.”*

- **Team Opposed**

*“Based on our studies and research, **no**, privatization of water utilities is NOT effective in countries and communities across the world.”*

**Debate Preparation & Resource Guide**

**Tips for Preparing**

We have provided a number of team-specific resources on the debate topic below. Please read and review these resources as preparation for the program. We recommend that you come to the debate activity prepared with notes on these resources, as well as a draft opening statement, so you are ready to craft well-thought-out, 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.

**Student Assignments**

Team Affirmative	Team Opposed
Gray Collins	Maxwell Steward

Henry Hewitt	Ana Miriam Corrales
Talyn Summers	Henry Elderfield
Nava Khojasteh	Clark Kerkstra
Sophia Mendoza	Khwaish Kapoor
Kyler Parker	James Kearney
Rohan Sivakumar	Lena Smith
Jake Warren	Aaron Smith
Purvi Chandra Kumar	Penelope Valenti

### 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. From the perspective of your assigned team, what specific methods or practices explain why privatization of water utilities are/are not effective?
2. From the perspective of your assigned team, what are some specific examples or case studies from the resources provided below or elsewhere that support your argument? *How* do these examples/case studies support your argument?

### Draft Opening Statement

*After conducting your research using the resources below (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 activity, 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 counterarguments.*

#### 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.*

**Team Affirmative Resources** – “Based on our studies and research, **yes**, privatization of water utilities is effective in countries and communities across the world.”

- [Privatization and the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation](#)
- [The Impact of Privatisation on the Sustainability of Water Resources](#)
- [A Right, a Need, or an Economic Good? Debating our Relationship to Water](#)
- [Water Companies Record Lowest Leakage Levels From Pipes](#)
- [Veolia Water Technologies, Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation](#)
- [Water and Wastewater Case Studies](#)

**Team Opposed Resources** – “Based on our studies and research, **no**, privatization of water utilities is NOT effective in countries and communities across the world.”

- [Privatization and the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation](#)
- [The Impact of Privatisation on the Sustainability of Water Resources](#)
- [A Right, a Need, or an Economic Good? Debating our Relationship to Water](#)
- [Water Privatisation: a worldwide failure?](#)
- [In Chile, Even Water is Privatized. The New Constitution Would Change That.](#)
- [Tunisia Must Improve Water Management and Ensure Access to Clean Supplies, UN Experts Says](#)