

Sample Debate Topics

Resolved: The benefits of First Amendment protection of offensive speech outweigh the harms.

Resolved: Those with unpopular opinions should self-censor to avoid offending others.

Resolved: Majority opinion should determine the scope of acceptable topics for discussion.

Resolved: Those who hold the majority of opinion have the right to silence those with alternative views.

Resolved: It is acceptable to prevent someone from speaking if you disapprove of their views.

Resolved: The most sensitive person in the room should have the right to determine the limits of discussion for a group.

Resolved: Teachers should use trigger warnings before assigning potentially upsetting material.

Resolved: Potentially-upsetting material should not be allowed in a high school classroom.

Resolved: Freedom of speech must include the license to offend.

Resolved: The school dress code violates students' freedom of speech.

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce its restrictions on legal immigration to the United States.

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase funding and/or eligibility for one or more of the following: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid enrollment.

Resolved: The United States ought to provide a universal basic income.

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its funding and/or regulation of elementary and/or secondary education in the United States.

Resolved: Bakers, florists, or other vendors should be required to provide services for events they oppose on moral or religious grounds.

Resolved: In the United States, non-human animals ought to have legally protected rights.

Resolved: Wealthy nations have an obligation to provide development assistance to other nations.

Resolved: In the United States, national service ought to be compulsory.

Resolved: NCAA student athletes ought to be recognized as employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Resolved: A just government ought to prioritize civil liberties over national security.

Resolved: The United States ought to guarantee the right to housing.

Resolved: Countries ought to prohibit the production of nuclear power.

Resolved: Immigration ought to be recognized as a human right.

Resolved: The United States ought to promote democracy in the Middle East.

Resolved: In the United States, private ownership of handguns ought to be banned.

Resolved: Just governments ought to ensure food security for all citizens.

Resolved: Inaction in the face of injustice makes individuals morally culpable.

Resolved: In a democracy, voting ought to be compulsory.

Resolved: Individuals have a moral obligation to assist people in need.

Resolved: In the United States, juveniles charged with violent felonies ought to be treated as adults in the criminal justice system.

Resolved: The United States government has a moral obligation to afford the same constitutional rights to all people on United States soil.

Resolved: Public high school students in the United States ought not be required to pass standardized exit exams to graduate.

Resolved: Public and private colleges and universities in the United States ought not restrict any constitutionally protected speech.

Resolved: The benefits of First Amendment protection of anonymous speech outweigh the harms.

Resolved: In the United States, students should be guaranteed two years of free tuition to a community or technical college.

Resolved: On balance, the benefits of genetically modified food outweigh the harms.

Resolved: Cyberbullying should be a criminal offense.



Resolved: The government should provide free lawyers to poor persons who are involved in civil lawsuits as either plaintiffs or defendants.

Resolved: All students in high school and college should have to undergo periodic drug testing in order to participate in extracurricular activities.

Also: **Resolved:** Police should be permitted to frisk for guns all people whom they stop for legitimate reasons.

Resolved: Evidence that is discovered as a result of unconstitutional police activity should be admissible in criminal trials.

Resolved: The Electoral College should be abolished.

Resolved: Caucuses should be replaced with primaries in all states.

Resolved: Winner-take-all elections for Congress should be replaced with a system of proportional representation.

Resolved: All states must use an instant run-off system in elections for federal office.

Resolved: The filibuster should be abolished.

Resolved: Political gerrymandering violates the Constitution

Resolved: Except when acting in immediate self-defense, the United States military may not engage in combat overseas without the explicit consent of Congress.

Resolved: Except when acting in immediate self-defense, no agent of the United States government may kill a United States citizen overseas unless the citizen has been convicted of a crime and sentenced to death.

Resolved: The President shall be limited to a single, 6-year term.

Resolved: Congress may overrule decisions of the Supreme Court by a 2/3 vote of each house.

Resolved: Government discrimination based on LGBT status violates the Equal Protection Clause.

Resolved: Closed primaries should be banned.

Resolved: Corporations and labor unions should not be permitted to donate money to political campaigns, including campaigns supporting or opposing ballot initiatives.

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