PANEL DISCUSSION INSTRUCTIONS

1. For panel discussion you will research both sides of a controversial topic.

2. take positions on the topic, and then present your points of view to a participating audience in the form of a panel discussion.

3. This is an opportunity for you to practice and use the following skills ~ research, discussion, planning, organizing, collaborating, developing, presenting, questioning and debating on a panel discussion.
Benefits to the students:

1. This assignment will give practice participating in a debate/panel discussion with a group of classmates.

2. Students will practice disagreeing politely and debating respectfully.

3. As audience members, panel discussions will give practice asking different types of questions in a professional, diplomatic way.
WHAT IS REQUIRED?

1. You must research the topic thoroughly.

2. Use at least five (5) different resources in order to do thorough research. Your team will cite these resources in your PowerPoint presentation on the last slide.

3. Your aim is to get a wide variety of perspectives so that you are exposed to both arguments.

4. Your panel will be 60 minutes in length (including Q&A), and each student is responsible for speaking an equal amount of time during the discussion and helping in preparation.

5. When one panel discussion group is presenting/speaking, the rest of the class will be curious, contributing audience members who will participate by asking content and/or clarification questions and offer comments/perspectives.
There are three roles that group members can take

Moderator
For position (PRO), and
Against position (CON).

**Moderator:**

- Your role is to be IMPARTIAL, which means you do not take sides and your personal opinion is not revealed.

- Your expertise is presenting the topic in 3-7 PPT slides, leading the panel discussion, inviting panelists to speak, and being a liaison between the audience and the panelists.
Moderator will

• Plan an introduction that states the topic and why it is being discussed.
• A moderator can also provide background information on the topic.
• Introduce each member of the panel
• Ask questions to keep the debate/panel going and to clarify or ask for further explanation.
• Keep track of time.
• Control the debate.
• Monitor audience questions.
• Conclude the debate/discussion
For and Against positions will:

• Role-play whichever role you are assigned.

• Prepare and keep track of what points you will make/data you will present during the discussion.

• Be able to speak your identity's opinion/perspective when put on the spot (impromptu speaking.)

• Try to predict the arguments that other members
Example Format for Panel Discussion:

1. Introduction to topic (PPT) & Panelists by Moderator

2. Each panelist on both sides makes a statement of point-of-view on topic

3. Discussion between Panelists ensues in the form of questions & answers

4. Audience participates: Questions from audience members (Led by Moderator)

5. Conclusion (by Moderator)
HELPFUL DELIVERY TIPS:

a) Define terms or phrases that the audience may not know.

b) Use index cards for notes (not full-length pages) that have key words, not full sentences on it.

c) Use the S-V-O sentence structure (Subject-Verb-Object) to keep it easy for the audience to understand.

In general, you can organize your comments by:

1. connecting what you are about to say using logical connecting language,

2. give background information if the audience isn’t familiar with the topic,

3. state your point, and

4. wrap it up or bridge your comment to your next comment using logical connecting language.
• During the Q&A, (moderator and panelists) don’t forget to paraphrase the audience’s questions or comments. Connect the questions/comments to the topic/discussion.

• During the conclusion, be sure to make it a thoughtful ending. End with a comment for the audience to think about, a recommendation, a suggestion or a prediction. End your discussion meaningfully, not abruptly.

**Moderator:**

For panelists, create discussion questions that begin with a WH word such as who, what, when, and where, but the most effective question words are **WHY and HOW**. If you ask a Y/N question, it does not entice debate; therefore, information questions (WH questions) are more effective for discussions.