



# U.S. HISTORY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## DEBATE

### *The United Nations*

According to Rasmussen Polling Agency, in the year 2004 **only 44%** of United States Citizens had a favorable view of the United Nations. This number continued to decline steadily. In 2006 that number had fallen to **31%**. As of 2006 slightly over a quarter (26% as of 2006) of Americans say “the U.S. should not be involved” with the United Nations, with a moderate majority of 57% still supporting remaining a member. However, in 2008 the Chicago Council on Global Affairs poll indicated that 39% find it “very important” and 21% “not important” to strengthen the U.N.

On June 15, 1992, the House of Representatives failed to pass an amendment which would end US involvement in the United Nations (93 in favor and 65 against, thirteen votes short of the two-thirds vote needed for passage).

SO...should we continue in the United Nations? Has it fulfilled its charter of peace or is it irrelevant today? Should the U.S. continue its membership?

**ASSIGNMENT:** You will debate American interest and involvement in the United Nations.

[1] You will **NOT** be assigned a position until the day of the debate - you must be prepared on **BOTH** sides.

[2] You will research the United States with the following questions in mind:

Ask yourself:

- What was the original purpose of the United Nations and has it fulfilled those goals?
- What advantages does the United States have by maintaining its membership in the UN? What disadvantages?
- What would happen if America left the UN (both to the United Nations and the rest of the world, as well as to our nation)?
- Why is the popularity of the UN dropped with so many in our nation in the past few years? Are these issues relevant?

[3] You will write a **SYNOPSIS** of the history of the United Nations **WITH *your*** position on the question. Also include a short statement on the opposite position - show you are prepared with the overall issues. Are you ready to debate?

Type **ONE PAGE** (500 words) in proper format (INTRO, BODY, CONCLUSION) of:

- The United Nation’s history and background, especially in regard to the United States
- Your own position on the United States membership in the UN
- Provide the other argument(s) that show the opposite position(s) - show the general reasons

**SYNOPSIS DUE DATE:** Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

[4] You will present a **DEBATE** of PRO or ANTI UNITED NATIONS membership for the U.S. [MAKE NOTE CARDS]

- You will only have 2 MINUTES to present. Your thoughts must be concise, exact and persuasive - in a short time period.
- You will only have 1 MINUTE rebuttal

**DEBATE DATES:** Tuesday & Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

# U.S. HISTORY DEBATE - *The United Nations*

CATEGORIES		1	2	3	4	5
30%	<b>Content</b> (Do you know your topic well enough to defend it?)	You have absolutely no idea about your topic.	You only have a very surface understanding of your topic.	You know some details about topic but you do not provide references to support your position and ideas.	You know more details about your topic with some references to support your position and ideas.	You present your topic as an expert and appear totally confident in your presentation.
30%	<b>Debate/Logic</b> (Is there an organization, strategy or logical technique you use in proving your position?)	You have no organization at all in your debate.	There is a little bit of organization in your presentation but the thoughts are inconsistent and randomly written.	Some organized ideas were presented with more consistency and purpose.	There organization with much structure but you are easily directed off target.	You are organized and logical and control the debate.
30%	<b>Synopsis</b> (Can you concisely and clearly explain your position?) DATE: Thu., May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Your synopsis is too complicated or not detailed enough to provide details on your debate topic.		There is some clarity and some detail OR not enough detail in your position statement.		You are concise and clear; your opponents know your topic without knowing your strategy of your debate.
5%	<b>Presentation</b> (Do you look professional?) DATE: Tue., Jun 4 <sup>th</sup> , Wed., Jun 4 <sup>th</sup>	You slouched, sat on a stool, did not have eye contact, did not project your voice, did not slow down - you did not present well.		You had some presentation skills but because you did not maintain those skills all the time you did not look confident or prepared.		You stood tall, maintained eye contact, projected your voice AND announced your words - you were prepared and confident - a DEBATOR!
5%	<b>Timing</b> (Can you present your ideas within the time allotted each day?)	You went beyond 20 seconds in time.		You went 10 seconds to 20 seconds over in time.		You presented your material in the time permitted.

*SOME WEBSITES TO HELP:* try these to help you do your research:

<http://www.un.org/en/> - the United Nations main website (English)

<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/world00.pdf> - map of current member nations in the UN

<http://asr2.myweb.uga.edu/Fall%202004/Readings/think%20again%20UN.pdf> - Madeline Albright's pro-UN article

<http://www.unwatch.org/> - a non government watchdog organization observing the UN (based on the UN charter)

<http://www.jbs.org/issues-pages/united-nations> - The John Birch Society's original charter was to end US/UN involvement

<http://getoutoftheun.com/> - an anti-UN site dedicated to ending our involvement

<http://www.getusout.org/index.html> - another anti-UN site - check the FAQs

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.1146> - Ron Paul's legislation to end our membership in the UN