



U.S. HISTORY

DEBATE *The Mexican War*

Synopsis:

Between 1846-1848 we went to war with our neighbor to the South - Mexico.

It was the first U.S. armed conflict chiefly fought in another country. Politically, it divided the country between the administration of U.S. President, James K. Polk, and other leaders who thought the war was just wrong. Polk believed the United States had a "manifest destiny" to spread across the continent to the Pacific Ocean. It was a border disagreement along the Rio Grande that started the fight. But in the end, Mexico will lose about one-third of its territory (including nearly all of present-day California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico) to the United States.

BUT...

...were we justified?

YOU WILL BE IN THE 1986 SENATE DEBATING WHETHER OR NOT WE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO WAR WITH MEXICO. Your assignment is as follows:

- [1] **RESEARCH** - Use the research from the sites posted on the blogspot (and below) to study BOTH sides of the arguments. Keep your research handy (I recommend 3x5 cards for facts and details you find). You will need to know them so you can use them during the actual debate.
- [2] **DEBATE** - you will be debating INCLASS one side or the other on the issue.
- You will be assigned PRO or CON on the day of the debate - ***be prepared to defend either side***
 - EVERYONE must participate for a grade - you must join your table team in the debate

DEADLINE: Research - March 19; Debates - March 25, 26

GRADE: 50 points

TO GET YOU STARTED IN YOUR RESEARCH:

A General Overview

<http://www.history.com/topics/mexican-american-war>

http://www.umich.edu/~ac213/student_projects06/magsylje/viewpoints.html

<http://www.dmwv.org/mexwar/documents/docs.htm>

PRO

http://www.pbs.org/kera/usmexicanwar/prelude/md_a_mexican_viewpoint.html

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/speech-on-the-mexican-american-war/>

ANTI

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=3&psid=3672

DEBATE

The rules and the guidelines of debate procedures will be provided in class.

BUT all must be preapred to debate - **NO ONE IS EXEMPT!**

DEBATE	1	2	3	4	5
<p>Content (Did you research the TOPIC effectively?)</p> <p>50%</p>	You have absolutely no idea about your topic.	You only have a very surface understanding of your topic. You refer to no reference even though you give information in your presentation. You provide only your opinion without data or researched content.	You not only show you know your topic but refer to one or two references to prove your viewpoints.	You are amazing in your research work - you defend your position with 3-4 reference works.	You amaze your audience with 5+ reference points - you conducted your research and it shows in your debate!
<p>Debate (Did you DEFEND your research effectively?)</p> <p>50%</p>	You either do not participate in the debate or speak up when given the opportunity.	You share your opinion only and offer only a surface perspective. You are either too quiet, shy or reserved due to not being ready to defend your position.	You defend your position effectively with references and content.	You not only defend your position with research, but take control of the debate with your style, forceful speech and confidence.	You literally blow your opponents away with an over zealous amount of research and references. You conduct yourself quietly, with confidence only because you came prepared to defend your position - you do not surrender because you know your topic AS WELL AS the other position so effectively, your opponent's arguments are handed in your presentation before submitted by the other debate team.
		OR you did not come prepared so you can only raise your voice with in-congruent, confusing arguments.			You have your opponents begging you to stop!