



WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE

OCTOBER 2024
SAMPLE MOTIONS



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Prepared Motions

1. This House believes that eligible voters should not vote in elections where they feel that candidates don't accurately represent their personal beliefs.

Context: This debate addresses the responsibility of eligible voters when they feel disconnected from the candidates running for office. It questions whether individuals should vote based on civic duty or abstain when their personal beliefs aren't represented. The motion raises broader questions about voter representation, political legitimacy, and the ethical implications of participating in a system that might feel misaligned with one's values. It also considers the potential impact of disengagement on democracy and the electoral process.

Proposition Arguments:

1. Abstaining preserves personal integrity by preventing compromise on core values when candidates misalign.
2. It signals the need for political reform and better representation of diverse views within the system.
3. Avoiding the ballot prevents endorsing candidates or policies that could be harmful or misaligned with individual principles.

Opposition Arguments:

1. Voting remains a civic responsibility, even if the available candidates don't fully align with personal beliefs.
2. Supporting the closest match to one's views still has a meaningful impact compared to not voting at all.
3. Low voter turnout weakens the legitimacy of elections, resulting in less representative outcomes.

2. This House would ban civilian ownership and use of drones.

Context: This debate examines whether civilian ownership and use of drones should be prohibited due to concerns about privacy, safety, and misuse. As drone technology becomes more accessible, it raises questions about regulating private use to prevent potential harm. The motion also considers the benefits of civilian drones for recreation, business, and innovation, and how a ban might impact these uses.

Proposition Arguments:

1. Protects privacy by preventing unauthorized surveillance of individuals and properties.
2. Reduces safety risks from potential accidents, especially in crowded or sensitive areas.
3. Limits misuse by preventing drones from being used for illegal or harmful purposes.

Opposition Arguments:

1. Drones have legitimate recreational and business applications, such as photography and delivery services.
2. Regulation, not a ban, can address safety and privacy concerns without eliminating personal freedoms.
3. Civilian drone use drives innovation in industries like agriculture, filmmaking, and disaster response.

3. This House supports the School Choice movement.

Context: This debate evaluates the School Choice movement, which advocates for giving parents and students more control over educational options, including charter schools, private schools, and homeschooling. The movement aims to improve educational outcomes by fostering competition and providing more tailored learning environments. The motion raises questions about the effectiveness of School Choice in addressing educational disparities, its impact on public schools, and the overall benefits to students and families.

Proposition Arguments:

1. **Empowers Parents:** Gives families the ability to choose the best educational environment for their children based on individual needs.
2. **Promotes Competition:** Encourages schools to improve quality and innovate to attract students.
3. **Enhances Educational Outcomes:** Offers more options and flexibility, potentially leading to better student performance and satisfaction.

Opposition Arguments:

1. **Undermines Public Schools:** Diverts funding and resources away from public schools, potentially weakening them.
2. **Increases Inequality:** Benefits families with more resources, while those in underserved areas may have fewer choices.
3. **Disrupts Community Schools:** May lead to fragmentation and reduce the sense of community within local public schools.

4. This House would significantly limit the professional use of Artificial Intelligence in the workplace.

Context: This debate considers whether to impose significant restrictions on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in professional settings. It addresses concerns about AI's impact on jobs, ethics, and workplace dynamics. The motion explores how limiting AI could affect productivity, innovation, and employee well-being, and examines whether restrictions might better balance technological advancements with human values and job security.

Proposition Arguments:

1. **Protects Jobs:** Limits the risk of AI replacing human workers and helps maintain employment opportunities.
2. **Ensures Ethical Use:** Prevents potential misuse of AI in areas like surveillance or decision-making that could harm employees.
3. **Reduces Dependency:** Minimizes reliance on AI, fostering skills development and human oversight in the workplace.

Opposition Arguments:

1. **Hinders Innovation:** Restricts technological advancements that could improve efficiency and create new job opportunities.
2. **Increases Costs:** Limits AI's potential to streamline operations and reduce operational costs for businesses.
3. **Global Competitiveness:** May put companies at a disadvantage compared to international competitors that fully utilize AI technologies.

5. This House believes that states should not fund any search for extraterrestrial life and habitable territories in space.

Context: This debate examines whether states should allocate funds to search for extraterrestrial life and habitable territories in space. It explores the potential benefits of such investments, including scientific discovery and technological advancement, versus the opportunity costs and practical concerns. The motion raises questions about the prioritization of public resources and the value of space exploration in the broader context of pressing global issues.

Proposition Arguments:

1. **Allocates Resources Wisely:** Funds could be better spent on immediate issues like healthcare, education, and poverty rather than speculative space exploration.
2. **Uncertain Returns:** The likelihood of finding extraterrestrial life or habitable planets is low, making it a questionable investment.
3. **Focus on Earth:** Prioritizes solving existing problems on Earth before investing in costly and uncertain space projects.

Opposition Arguments:

1. **Promotes Scientific Advancement:** Funding space exploration can lead to breakthroughs in technology and knowledge that benefit multiple fields.
2. **Inspires Innovation:** Encourages investment in cutting-edge research and development, potentially leading to new discoveries and industries.
3. **Long-Term Benefits:** Understanding space and potential extraterrestrial life can provide future opportunities and insights that impact humanity's long-term survival and expansion.

Impromptu Motions

1. This House regrets the popularity of award shows for art (e.g., music, film, and television).

Context: This debate explores whether the growing popularity of award shows for art, including music, film, and television, is regrettable. It questions whether these awards genuinely recognize artistic merit or if they prioritize commercial success, celebrity culture, and entertainment value. The motion also considers the impact of award shows on artists, industry standards, and public perception of art.

Proposition Arguments:

1. Promotes Commercialism: Awards often prioritize popularity and profit over artistic quality, skewing public perception of true artistic value.
2. Encourages Competition Over Collaboration: The focus on awards can foster a competitive rather than collaborative atmosphere among artists.
3. Reinforces Celebrity Culture: Awards can shift attention from art itself to the personalities and glamor associated with the industry.

Opposition Arguments:

1. Recognizes Talent: Awards celebrate and bring attention to exceptional work, providing artists with deserved recognition and career opportunities.
2. Boosts Industry Standards: Encourages high standards and innovation by highlighting and rewarding excellence in various art forms.
3. Engages Audiences: Increases public interest and engagement with the arts, promoting cultural appreciation and diversity.

2. This House prefers scripted television to unscripted television.

Context: This debate examines whether scripted television, which includes dramas, comedies, and narratives created by writers, is preferable to unscripted television, such as reality shows and documentaries. The motion evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of both types, including their impact on storytelling, audience engagement, and overall entertainment value. It also considers the role of creativity and authenticity in television programming.

Proposition Arguments:

1. **Enhanced Storytelling:** Scripted shows offer well-developed plots and character arcs, leading to more engaging and coherent narratives.
2. **Creative Control:** Writers and creators have more control over content, leading to higher production quality and innovative storytelling.
3. **Consistent Quality:** Scripted programming typically maintains a higher standard of content and production values compared to many unscripted shows.

Opposition Arguments:

1. **Authenticity:** Unscripted television often provides genuine, real-life experiences and emotional connections that scripted shows may lack.
2. **Spontaneity:** The unscripted format can capture unexpected moments and raw interactions, making it more dynamic and entertaining.
3. **Diverse Perspectives:** Unscripted shows can highlight a wide range of real-life stories and viewpoints, offering broader representation and inclusivity.

3. This House prefers to know how and when they die versus not knowing.

Context: This debate considers whether people would prefer to know the specifics of how and when they will die or remain unaware. It explores the implications of such knowledge on personal choices, mental health, and quality of life. The motion raises questions about the psychological impact of knowing one's death details versus the potential benefits of living without such foreknowledge.

Proposition Arguments:

1. **Informed Decision-Making:** Knowing the time and manner of death allows individuals to make meaningful life choices and fulfill personal goals or bucket lists.
2. **Emotional Preparation:** Provides time to prepare emotionally, resolve personal matters, and say goodbye to loved ones.
3. **Avoids Uncertainty:** Reduces anxiety and fear related to the unknown, allowing for a more focused and purposeful life.

Opposition Arguments:

1. **Increases Anxiety:** Knowledge of death details can lead to constant worry and fear, negatively impacting quality of life and mental health.
2. **Limits Spontaneity:** Knowing the time and manner of death might lead to less spontaneous and more restricted living, potentially reducing enjoyment and experiences.
3. **Interferes with Living Fully:** Can overshadow daily life and prevent individuals from living in the moment, focusing instead on the inevitable end.

4. This House believes that capitalism does more harm than good for economic mobility.

Context: This debate examines whether capitalism, as an economic system, is detrimental to economic mobility—an individual's ability to improve their economic status. It explores the impact of capitalism on wealth distribution, opportunities, and social mobility. The motion raises questions about how capitalism influences access to resources, economic inequality, and the potential barriers to upward mobility within the system.

Proposition Arguments:

1. **Increases Inequality:** Capitalism can lead to significant wealth gaps, concentrating wealth among a small percentage of the population and limiting economic mobility for others.
2. **Barriers to Entry:** Economic opportunities are often tied to initial wealth and resources, making it harder for those from disadvantaged backgrounds to advance.
3. **Exploitative Practices:** Profit-driven motives can result in exploitation and job insecurity, impeding the ability of individuals to achieve stable economic growth.

Opposition Arguments:

1. **Incentivizes Innovation:** Capitalism drives economic growth and innovation by rewarding successful ventures and creating new opportunities.
2. **Promotes Efficiency:** Competition within capitalism can lead to more efficient markets and better services, potentially benefiting a broader range of individuals.
3. **Encourages Hard Work:** The system rewards personal effort and entrepreneurial spirit, offering pathways to economic mobility for those who are proactive and resourceful.

5. This House would allow developed countries to pay developing countries to relocate and resettle refugees.

Context: This debate considers whether developed countries should be permitted to financially support developing countries in relocating and resettling refugees. It examines the potential benefits and challenges of such an arrangement, including the impact on refugee welfare, international relations, and the responsibilities of developed nations in addressing global migration issues. The motion raises questions about the ethical implications and practical effectiveness of incentivizing refugee resettlement through financial means.

Proposition Arguments:

1. **Relieves Burden:** Provides financial resources to developing countries that may struggle with the economic and logistical challenges of hosting large numbers of refugees.
2. **Improves Refugee Welfare:** Ensures that refugees are resettled in safer, more stable environments where they can better access resources and opportunities.
3. **Encourages Cooperation:** Fosters international collaboration and shared responsibility in addressing the global refugee crisis.

Opposition Arguments:

1. **Potential Exploitation:** Risks turning refugee resettlement into a financial transaction, potentially undermining the humanitarian aspects of refugee assistance.
2. **Reduces Accountability:** Shifts the responsibility from developed countries to developing ones, potentially neglecting the need for comprehensive solutions and support.
3. **Ethical Concerns:** May create inequities and dependencies, as financial incentives could prioritize relocation over addressing root causes of displacement or ensuring adequate support.