

MIDTERM: A TAKE-HOME DEBATE

Due Date: Wednesday, Oct. 24—hard copy given to me at the beginning of class (please do not wait until the last minute to print it out!).

Length: Roughly four pages of double-spaced, twelve-point font like *Times New Roman*.

OPTION #1: THE INDIVIDUAL AND GOVERNMENT—A DEBATE

For this option, you will create a debate between three historical figures, addressing the question: “What is the proper relationship between the individual and the government?” This is partly an exercise of imagination: the debate can be between figures who lived in very different eras and who obviously never came into contact with each other, but they must have lived during the time period we have studied so far (roughly 1500-1850). A major part of the evaluation will be how accurately you represent the views of each figure, using some of their writings or accounts of their lives that we have read in the textbook or *Shaping of the Modern World* to back up the statements that you write. The imaginativeness and liveliness of the debate will also be evaluated. Note that it might be a good idea to define what your debaters mean by “individual.” For example, how should an ideal government interact with women? Poor people? Enslaved people?

Lastly, you will choose your three figures from the following list of names. (If you really want to use a figure that’s not here, email me for permission, and let me know what texts you will use to find out that person’s views on the question.)

Jean Domat	Maximilian Robespierre
John Locke	Olympe de Gouges
a Qing scholar-bureaucrat	Toussaint Louverture
Thomas Paine	Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Thomas Jefferson (primary author, <i>Declaration of Independence</i> , 1776)	Mary Wollstonecraft
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	Edmund Burke
Authors of the <i>Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen</i> (1791)	Adam Smith
	William Wilberforce

OPTION #2: RELIGION IN SOCIETY—A DEBATE

This option is the exact same format as above, but your three debaters will address another question: “What role should religion play in society?”

Here’s the list of names for this option:

Galileo Galilei	Fabian Fucan
Martin Luther	Akbar
Jean Domat	Aurangzeb
John Calvin	Voltaire
Matteo Ricci	Napoleon
a Ming scholar-bureaucrat	Theodor Herzl

WRITING THE PAPER

Each debater should be given an “opening statement” of about a paragraph, and then you are free to take the arguments in whatever direction you see fit. But you should think about concluding with whether or not any of the debates can find common ground on the question, or if they completely disagree.

Make sure that you clearly identify who is speaking during your debate by labeling each speaker, like so:

Galileo Galilei: Our careful observations of the physical world that contradict biblical sources do not challenge God’s authority. We should consult the Bible for guidance in moral and spiritual lives, but not rely on it as the final authority on the physical world around us.

Voltaire: In general I agree, but would go a step further: We don’t need to consult the Bible for moral guidance, but rather just rely on our own reason. The Bible contains many contradictory and superstitious stories that ultimately just confuse people.

CITING THE TEXTBOOK AND *SHAPING*

In general, you should not directly quote writing in your debate, but rather paraphrase the ideas. But even with paraphrasing, you need to show there is support for the statement that is being made. Here are some examples of the simple in-line citations you can use for any of the texts we are using in the course:

John Locke: God gave the earth to all men in common, and no one originally has any special privilege over each other. (*Shaping*, p. 35)

Akbar: I believe that religion and government should be united together under one Divine Faith (*Traditions*, p. 606).

OUTSIDE SOURCES

You are welcome to use outside sources for the second section of this essay, but they are not required. If you elect to do so, be certain that you pay attention to proper academic citation styles. I prefer the Chicago Manual of Style. You can find information on this style here: {
HYPERLINK "http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html" }

GUIDELINES

- Papers must have a title that is original and is connected to your theme. DO NOT simply call your paper “Midterm Take Home”—I will subtract several points for anyone doing so. Give it a lively title that will pique the reader’s curiosity that gives a preview of the content of the debate.
- Papers are to be typewritten, in a twelve-point font, and have one-inch margins.
- Please number your pages.
- Full footnotes are required for sources outside of the course readings; see the Chicago style online guide at the URL listed above.
- Spelling and grammar counts. Use spell-check on your computer and always have someone else proofread for you if at all possible (fresh eyes always help!).