Environmental Debates
Debate Topics:

• 1. Should the Congress approve the proposal to open up a portion of ANWR for oil and gas exploration and development?

• 2. Should the government permit the use of hydrofracking in the Marcellus Shale region of NY?
Debate Speeches

• 1. Informative Speeches
  – Pro (Support the Proposal)
    • 1. Explain proposal and the problem being solved
    • 2. Explain benefits and why the proposal would work
    • 3. Explain why the proposal is the best solution to the problem
    • 4. Give examples of other places that this solution has worked
  – Con (Go against the Proposal)
    • 1. Explain the negatives to the proposal
    • 2. Explain why it wouldn’t work
    • 3. Give examples of places it hasn’t worked and the problems encountered
    • 4. Give an alternative solution
2. Rebuttal Questions/Answers
   – Have a list of at least 10 questions ready to ask the opposing team.
   – Be ready to write down new questions as you listen to the opposing teams informative speech.
   – Be ready to answer any questions asked to you.
• Time for speeches
  – Informative:
    • Pro – goes first – 10 minutes in total (divided up among your teammates however you would like)
    • Con – goes second – 10 minutes in total (divided up among your teammates however you would like)
  – Rebuttal Question/Answer:
    • Back and forth question and answer time (total approximately 15 – 20 minutes)
    • Con side asks questions first
Two Grades:

• 1. Test Grade for the actual debate speeches and the rebuttal questions asked and answered.

• 2. Quiz Grade for your written summary of your opinion on the debate topic. To ensure you come prepared to actively participate in the class debate, you will be required to prepare a written summary of your arguments whether they are for or against this proposal. The format of this assignment will be an "op-ed" (opinion editorial) article with a length of about 750 words (most word processing programs have a word count function). (This must be typed and turned in before your debate starts.)