**Presidential / Vice Presidential Debates 2012**

**#1 and #2 – DUE October 15, 2012**

**#3 – DUE October 24, 2012**

**#4 – DUE October 26, 2012**

**#5 – DUE October 26, 2012**

1. Text – The IDEA Guide to the 2012 U.S. Presidential Debates

a. Read “Performing Democracy: American Presidential Debates” (pages 1 – 48)

This is YOUR book so you may underline / highlight / etc. in the book.

b. BEFORE you read the chapter (15 points)

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| The purpose of a political debate in any country is… |
| My experience with debates or debating is… (with friends / family, at school, watching others, etc.) |
| The idea of watching a U.S. presidential debate is… (list a few adjectives) |

2. WHILE you read the chapter, you will keep a record of key dates, people, events, and vocabulary:

Section 1: Service Above Ambition (1800-1830) (20 points)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dates | People | Events | Vocabulary |
|  |  |  |  |

Section 2: From Stump Speeches to Whistle-Stop Tours (1830 – 1912) (20 points)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dates | People | Events | Vocabulary |
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Section 3: Technology Unties the Electorate (1913-1959) (20 points)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dates | People | Events | Vocabulary |
|  |  |  |  |

Section 4: Debates in the Information Age (1960-2008) (20 points)

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| Dates | People | Events | Vocabulary |
|  |  |  |  |

3. AFTER you have read the chapter, answer ONE of the following prompts on the “Class Blog 2012.” (20 points – answer prompt, provide sufficient evidence / rationale)

a) According to the author, do the debates affect the outcome of the election? Either way, do you think the debates are useful? Why or why not? (Paragraph 1 – Summarize the author’s position. Paragraph 2 - Give at least 3 reasons for your position. Use evidence from the article to support your position.)

b) If you were moderating a presidential debate, what questions would you ask the candidates? Why? (List at least 4 questions and why each question is essential in a presidential debate. Your “why” should include at least two specific reasons.)

c) Write a proposal for making presidential debates more engaging and impactful on the outcome of the elections. (Include at least 3 specific suggestions for making the debates more engaging for the public. For each suggestion, state why it might have an impact on the outcome.)

d) The 2012 presidential debates only include the two dominant party candidates – Republican and Democrat. Argue for or against include third party candidates in the debates. Include at least three specific reasons to support your position.

4. Read TWO of your classmates blog posts. Provide feedback to your classmate. Do you agree? Disagree? Did s/he provide enough evidence to support his/her position? (5 points each; 10 points)

5. Watch at least one presidential or vice presidential debates. NOTE: Only the Republican and Democratic candidates participate in the “Official” debate. If you want to watch 3rd party candidates, I’ve included information from Democracy Now ([www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org)) which will include responses from two additional candidates. The debates will be on TV (ABC, NBC, CNN, FOX, CBS, Public TV ) and radio (90.9 FM). You can watch them on TV, on-line or listen on the radio. (15 points)

While watching the debate, complete the chart:

Dates of the Debate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Candidates: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Topics: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- | --- |
| What they said that I already knew… | What they said that surprised me… | I’d like to know more about… |
|  |  |  |

**U.S. Presidential Debates 2012**

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| --- | --- |
| **October 3, 2012** Presidential – Romeny and Obama | **Topic**: Domestic policy  **Air Time**: 9:00-10:30 p.m. Eastern Time **Location:** [University of Denver](http://www.du.edu/debate2012/index.html) in Denver, Colorado  The debate will focus on domestic policy and be divided into six time segments of approximately 15 minutes each on topics to be selected by the moderator and announced several weeks before the debate.  ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- |
| **October 11, 2012** Vice Presidential – Ryan and Biden | **Topic:** Foreign and domestic policy  **Air Time:** 9:00-10:30 p.m. Eastern Time **Location:** [Centre College](http://www.centre.edu/centredebate2012/) in Danville, Kentucky  The debate will cover both foreign and domestic topics and be divided into nine time segments of approximately 10 minutes each. The moderator will ask an opening question, after which each candidate will have two minutes to respond. The moderator will use the balance of the time in the segment for a discussion of the question.  ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------ |
| **October 16, 2012** Presidential – Romney and Obama | **Topic:** Town meeting format including foreign and domestic policy **Air Time:** 9:00-10:30 p.m. Eastern Time **Location:** [Hofstra University](http://www.hofstra.edu/debate/) in Hempstead, New York  The second presidential debate will take the form of a town meeting, in which citizens will ask questions of the candidates on foreign and domestic issues. Candidates each will have two minutes to respond, and an additional minute for the moderator to facilitate a discussion. The town meeting participants will be undecided voters selected by the Gallup Organization. |
| **October 22, 2012** Presidential – Romney and Obama | **Topic:** Foreign policy **Air Time:** 9:00-10:30 p.m. Eastern Time **Location:** [Lynn University](http://debate2012.lynn.edu/) in Boca Raton, Florida  The format for the debate will be identical to the first presidential debate and will focus on foreign policy. |

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**Third Party Candidates to Join in Real Time on Democracy Now!’s Live Coverage of First Pres. Debate**

<http://www.democracynow.org/>

As President Barack Obama and Republican nominee Mitt Romney square off in the first presidential debate in Denver on October 3, Democracy Now! will broadcast live from Denver with a special expanded presidential debate from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. ET. We will air the debate, pausing after questions to include equal time responses from two presidential contenders who were shut out of the official debate: Jill Stein of the Green Party and Rocky Anderson of the Justice Party.