

SPARTA VS ATHENS: A CLASS DEBATE

TASK

Of more than 300 Greek city-states, Athens and Sparta were the most powerful. Yet these two city states were huge rivals and had very little in common. This exercise will allow students to research, organize and articulate specific arguments and evidence in a formal debate based on the question:

Which was more superior, Athens or Sparta?

Instructions

1. Students should divide into 2 groups: one representing Sparta, the other representing Athens.
2. Once in groups, groups will form “mini-groups” of 2 and select one of the following topics:
 - Government / political structure
 - Education
 - Role women and children
 - Military strength / alliances
 - Economy
 - Social or Class Structure
 - Lifestyle, Values and beliefs
 - Cultural Achievements / Legacies
3. Once in small groups, students will research their society according to selected topic. Students are encouraged to investigate the strengths and weaknesses of their opponents’ society as well as the strengths and weaknesses of their own.
4. Prior to debates, groups / pairs should use strongest arguments and evidence during debates. This should be organized in a FACT SHEET that each student must complete (see attached) for individual mark and debate mark.
5. During debates, each student must explain at least ONE argument pertaining to his/ her topic and offer challenges or rebuttals to opposition. All students must be prepared to defend their position against their opponents.
6. After debate is complete, students should reflect and report on its opponents’ strongest arguments / challenges / rebuttals.

DEBATE DATE: _____

Name: _____

Athens / Sparta Debate Fact Sheet

Each student must complete his/her own fact sheet and submit on date of debate! Complete the chart with research for your arguments and evidence. THIS SHOULD BE DIFFERENT THAN YOUR PARTNER!

1. Which was more superior, Athens or Sparta? (circle side you represent)

2. Topic: _____

3. Opening or Closing Statement: (This is either how you will start your argument or end it.)

4. Argument: (Here you will argue what you think is the most important part of your topic and WHY)

5. Evidence to support argument: (Here you will write a brief summary of information that supports your argument, AS WELL AS THE WEBSITE THAT YOU GOT THE INFORMATION!) You must have all 5!

I. _____

- SOURCE:

2.

- SOURCE:

3.

- SOURCE:

4.

- SOURCE:

5.

- SOURCE:

6. Argument you expect your opponents to make: (Here you will need to prepare an argument that you think the other city-state will make.)

7. Planned Rebuttal to Opponent: (Here you will take what you know about your city state, as well as the argument you think the other city state will have, and argue how you still feel your city state is superior to that of your opponents)

Name: _____

City State: _____

Topic: _____

Rubric

In order to get full points, each bullet point under the requirements section must be completed.

Category	Requirements	Comments
Athens/Sparta Debate Fact Sheet /60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Topic ○ Opening or closing statement ○ Argument ○ 5 pieces of evidence with sources ○ Argument of Opponent ○ Planned Rebuttal 	
Knowledge & Understanding /20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provides historically accurate information in main arguments 	
Thinking & Inquiry /10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draws connections by using more than 3 pieces of evidence that supports argument. ○ Was prepared for argument made by opponent with responding with rebuttal 	
Communication /10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student expresses ideas clearly and confidently to the audience. ○ Student delivers their argument in a convincing manner. 	

Total Points _____/100

Additional Comments:

DEBATE STRUCTURE

Opening Statement made by each side:

- Each side must come up with an opening statement as to why their city-state is superior to the other.
- Sparta (1 minute)
- Athens (1 minute)

Arguments:

- Each person in each city state will have a chance to argue their selected topic.
- Athens goes first by explaining why they think their topic is better in Athens than in Sparta. (2 minutes)
- Athens then argues what they think Sparta's argument will be and explains why theirs is still better. (1 minute)
- Sparta will then argue against Athens by explaining why they think their topic is better in Sparta than in Athens. (2 minutes)
- Sparta will then argue against Athens' argument and explain why Sparta is superior to Athens. (1 minute)

Closing Statements made by each side:

- Each side will make an appropriate closing statement as to why they feel their city-state is superior to the other.
- Sparta (1 minute)
- Athens (2 minutes)

Helpful Sources:

- YOUR BOOK! You should start here first!
- <http://www.ushistory.org/civ/5a.asp>
- <http://www.pbs.org/empires/thegreeks/educational/lesson1.html>
- <http://greece.mrdonn.org/education.html>
- https://www.difference.com/difference/Athens_vs_Sparta
- DO NOT EVEN THINK ABOUT USING WIKIPEIDIA! It will NOT Be counted as a source!