

17.55, Introduction to Latin American Studies, Fall 2006
Prof. Chappell Lawson
Session 18: Class Debate

First debate topic

Resolved: Chile's current democratic leaders should prosecute General Augusto Pinochet for his role in human rights abuses perpetrated under the military regime (1973-1990).

Teams

Team 1A (affirmative)

Team 1B (negative)

Team 2A (affirmative)

Team 2B (negative)

Judges

There will be two debates: one between Team 1A and Team 1B; the next between teams 1B and 2B. Speakers on the affirmative teams will defend prosecution; speakers on the negative teams will oppose it. Judges will then each render a 2-minute verdict.

The first speaker from each team will make a two-minute opening statement laying out her team's overall position. The second speaker from each team will then have two minutes to rebut the arguments made by the other teams. The third speaker from each team will then be allowed three minutes to cross-examine her counterpart on the opposing team, who must defend her team's position with brief and direct replies. The fourth speaker on each team will then have two minutes to summarize her team's arguments, addressing any weaknesses that have been exposed and pointing out weaknesses in the other team's positions. After we have held the first debate, we will move on to the second debate. Time permitting, we will then open up the class to general discussion.

Please note that we will time each presentation strictly, so that you should prepare and practice your comments in advance. You will also want to talk among your team members to iron out your overall strategy. In most cases, this will require anticipating the strengths and weaknesses of each side of the debate, drawing on your knowledge of the Chilean case from readings, films, and lectures.

Because of time constraints, we will begin promptly. Lateness will be penalized in a draconian fashion.

Instructor role during debate

- **Make sure that chairs and tables are arranged for debaters**
- **Make placards or labels for each team representative**
- **State question clearly and write it on the board**
- **Time participants strictly, giving them hand signals for time remaining**