

The Blind Date Debates Guidelines and Rubric

Essential & Guiding Question: Why should your novel be added to the 9th grade reading curriculum? *In other words, why should students be exposed to your book? What is its significance?*

Directions: A few weeks ago, you had the opportunity to “blind date” a number of different novels during class. Having chosen your book, here are the deadlines to expect as well as the ultimate purpose of the activity, including the project guidelines.

Important Dates:

- _____ – You must come to class with a copy of your assigned novel.
- _____ – Novel must be completed. You will take an in-class quiz to demonstrate that you read the entirety of the novel.
- _____ –
 - Outline your debate and support
 - Meet your match! Who will you be competing against in the first round?
 - Create your book trailer using the iPad app, Animoto
- _____ – Let the debates begin! You will be trying to persuade the class to add your assigned novel to the curriculum.

Requirements:

1. You must submit a typed proposal to me as to why your book should be added to our curriculum. This proposal must include:
 - a. An objective summary of the text: Tell what your novel is about.
 - b. A thesis statement (as though you were writing an essay telling me why your book should be added to the curriculum). **This should be on the Persuasion Map used on ReadWriteThink.com.**
 - c. Three supporting points as to why your book should be added (think theme, skills, and modern-day applications of the main ideas of your text). **This should be on the Persuasion Map used on ReadWriteThink.com.**
 - d. Your personal response – In all honesty, did you enjoy reading your novel? Why or why not? Did it make you think differently about something? Were you able to make connections with the text? Do you think that it is relevant in our society? *Explain.* (Keep in mind that regardless of your opinion, you must debate as though your peers should read this novel. Find the good!)
2. You will create a “trailer” for your novel, using the website or iPad app, Animoto. You will have three class days to do so. The purpose of this trailer is to convince your classmates to read the novel you read.

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Debate Day(s) Timeline:

- You will debate against another classmate in a March Madness-inspired bracket. After the debate, your audience (of peers **and** of the Curriculum Team) will vote as to which book should proceed. The rounds will proceed as follows:
 - Round 1: 1) Book Trailer viewing, 2) Provide an objective summary of the book *without giving anything away*, and 3) Thesis – Vote.
 - Round 2: Thesis with Supporting Point 1 – Vote.
 - Round 3: Thesis with Supporting Point 2 – Vote.
 - Round 4: Thesis with Supporting Point 3 – Vote.
 - Round 5: View Trailer again, then a from-the-heart argument – Vote.

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Category	4	3	2	1
Book Trailer	The trailer is extremely creative, engaging, and is an accurate portrayal of the novel it depicts.	The trailer is creative, engaging, and a mostly accurate portrayal of the novel it depicts.	The trailer is somewhat creative and engaging, but many details are inaccurate or misleading.	The trailer is not creative, not engaging, or inaccurate in its entirety.
Objective Summary	The summary demonstrates a strong understanding of the novel read and the themes/ messages it reveals to readers.	The summary demonstrates a basic understanding of the novel read and the themes/ messages it reveals to readers.	The summary is vague or incomplete, and it does not address relevant themes/ messages being revealed to readers.	The summary is inaccurate, incomplete, or irrelevant.
Thesis	The thesis statement is in the form of a declarative sentence that states clearly and concisely states the main point that the student is trying to make. It establishes focus that clearly directs the argument being made.	The thesis statement is in the form of a declarative sentence and makes a point, but is a bit too broad. It establishes the topic or stance that adequately directs the argument being made.	The thesis statement is in the form of a declarative sentence, but is vague and does not make a concrete point. It contains an unfocused topic that lacks clear direction for the argument.	The thesis statement is not in a declarative sentence. Thesis statement inadequately identifies a topic or fails to establish the direction of the argument.
Supporting Points	Supporting points strongly relate to the thesis statement, are relevant, and help the audience to connect with the argument.	Supporting points relate to the thesis statement, are mostly relevant, and help the audience to connect with the argument.	Supporting points vaguely relate to the thesis statement, may not all be relevant, or do not establish a connection between the audience and the argument.	Supporting points are irrelevant and show a great disconnect between ideas and the audience.

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Personal Response	The response is thoughtful in nature, makes connections with classroom content, and does not rely solely on opinion but on modern-day relevance and connections.	The response is thoughtful, but may make loose connections with classroom content or relies heavily on unsupported opinion.	The response is thoughtful, but may lack connections with classroom content or is all opinion without support.	The response is neither thoughtful, nor does it show a meaningful connection with classroom content and modern-day relevance.
Debate Day: Presentation & Speaking	Student consistently used gestures, eye contact, tone of voice and a level of enthusiasm in a way that kept the attention of the audience.	Student usually used gestures, eye contact, tone of voice and a level of enthusiasm in a way that kept the attention of the audience.	Student sometimes used gestures, eye contact, tone of voice and a level of enthusiasm in a way that kept the attention of the audience.	The student's presentation style did not keep the attention of the audience.
Spelling & Grammar	Though there may be a few minor errors in grammar and usage, meaning is clear throughout the response.	There may be a few distracting errors in grammar and usage, but meaning is clear.	There are a few patterns of error in grammar and usage that may occasionally impede understanding.	There are multiple distracting errors in grammar and usage that sometimes impede understanding.

Total Points: _____ / 28 = _____ / 100

Additional Comments: