Energy Debate Assignment Overview

Over the next 6 weeks, beginning with Friday, April 11th, we will be holding in-class debates on a variety of energy topics (see below for schedule).

For each "debate" there will be several major roles and several minor roles. Everyone in the class will need to sign up for one week in the major role and a different week in the minor role.

Requirements for students in minor roles:
1. Read over 1 - 3 brief articles or websites.
2. (optional) Read additional material posted on the library class project page (http://uiuc.libguides.com/sustainableenergy).
3. Compose and ask at least 2 questions of the students playing major roles during the debate or hearing (for example, the congresspeople holding a hearing will each compose two questions for the individuals testifying).
4. Submit your questions, along with citations for the resources you consulted, to the Moodle on or before the day of the hearing or debate.

Requirements for students in major roles:
1. Read 1 or 2 brief overview articles or websites.
2. Read over relevant sections of the course texts Sustainable Energy Without The Hot Air (http://www.withouthotair.com/), Energy for Future Presidents (available in the library if you didn't buy it), and Sustainability: a comprehensive foundation (http://cnx.org/content/col11325/latest/).
3. Do additional research to gain a better understanding of the problem and develop the best possible arguments to support the position you were assigned. Use the library's class project page to help with this (http://uiuc.libguides.com/sustainableenergy).
4. Prepare a 5-10 minute presentation (see details below) that includes a Power Point with data that supports the position for which you are arguing. Deliver this presentation during the in-class mock hearing, city council meeting, or political debate.
5. Submit your Power Point, along with a roughly 2-page position statement to the Moodle on or before the day of the hearing or debate. The position statement should summarize your arguments, provide credible data to support each point, and should include both in-text citations and a list of works cited.

This assignment is worth 15% of your final grade (major role = 10%, minor role = 5%).
Schedule of Debates:

**Week 1 (FRIDAY 4/11) - Energy Policy in Illinois** (focus on electricity and heating since we will do transportation later)

Question: What role should renewable energy play in the state of Illinois' overall energy mix? What role can/should the state government play in supporting clean energy?

Premise: State legislature hearing

Details for the April 11th Illinois State Assembly hearing:
The state of California has recently adopted several aggressive policies intended to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote clean energy. This includes a 2050 goal of reducing GHG emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels as well as several 2020 goals, including the 33% Renewable Electricity Standard (RES).

Required Reading:
1. Read up on California's Clean Energy policies:
   http://www.cacleanenergyfuture.org
2. Read a summary of current energy resources, demand, and policy in Illinois: http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=IL

Additional Reading:
3. Read about the Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard:
4. Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency:
   http://dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=IL04R&re=0&e
   e=0
5. Illinois State Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Energy Programs:
   http://www.illinois.gov/dceo/ServicesGuide/SitePages/Search.aspx

Major roles (10-minute presentation of your case in favor or against the types of policies enacted in California):
- Oil and gas lobbyist - Dezy
- Solar & Wind energy lobbyist - Aileen
- Power and Electric lobbyist - Lea

Minor Roles (Administer the hearing and ask at least one question of each lobbyist after their presentations):
- Republican congressmen (Kedar & Randall)
- Democratic congressmen (Diego & Liam)
**Week 2 (FRIDAY 4/18) - Promoting Energy Efficiency in Champaign-Urbana Homes and Businesses**

Question: What strategies, incentives, etc. might we use to encourage efficient energy use in Champaign-Urbana?

Premise: City council meeting

Details for the April 18th Champaign city council meeting (coming soon):

Required Reading For All Students:
1. Champaign Growing Greener sustainability plan:

Additional Reading:
2. Ameren Illinois *Act On Energy* Program:
   [http://www.actonenergy.com/home/default](http://www.actonenergy.com/home/default)
4. University of Illinois Energy Dashboard:
   [http://www.illinienergy.illinois.edu/](http://www.illinienergy.illinois.edu/)
5. University of Illinois Center for a Sustainable Environment energy conservation overview:
   [http://sustainability.illinois.edu/energy_conservation.html](http://sustainability.illinois.edu/energy_conservation.html)

Major Roles (Prepare and deliver 10-minute presentations):
- Director of the Illinois Green Business Council (Jia)
- Ameren Illinois *Act On Energy* Program Director (Nathan)
- Director of the University of Illinois Center for a Sustainable Environment (George)
- Lead SEDAC Engineer (Bryan)

Minor roles (Administer the meeting and ask at least one question of each presenter):
- Champaign City Council members (Mary D., Anna, and Chloe)
- Champaign Mayor (Lea)

**Week 3 (THURSDAY 4/24) - The Future of Transportation in Illinois**

Question: From a statewide perspective, what approach(es) might most responsibly -- and realistically -- use natural resources? Should we champion better fuel efficiency? Promote liquified natural gas or electric cars? What role should public transportation play?

Premise: State legislature hearing
Details for the April 24th Illinois General Assembly Hearing (coming soon):

Major Roles (Prepare a 5 minute presentation and answer questions from the panel):
Business leaders and environmental groups - TBD (Sam, Max, Will, Tanisha)

Minor Roles:
Republican state representatives: (Roberto and Shawn)
Democratic state representatives: (Mary C. and Dezy)

**Week 4 (FRIDAY 5/2) - Global Warming/Climate Change**
Question: Global Warming: Genuine Threat or Distracting Hype?
Premise: U.S. House of Representatives 13th District general election town hall debate

Details for the May 2nd debate (coming soon):

Major Roles (Prepare a 2 minute presentation and answer audience questions):
Democratic Nominee (Kedar)
Republican Nominee (Mary D.)
Independent Nominee (Randall)
Green Party Nominee (Roberto)

Minor Roles (Prepare two questions for the candidates):
Town hall audience (Chas, Max, Sam, Tanisha, Aileen)

**Week 5 (WEDNESDAY 5/14) - Global Warming and Global Poverty**
Question: How do we curb global warming without condemning developing nations to living in literal darkness? What options exist to minimize disparities without maxing out our resources?
Premise: International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Details for the May 14th debate (coming soon):

Major roles (Prepare a 5 minute presentation and answer questions from the panel):
U.S. (Chas)
Russia (Liam)
India (Shawn)
China (Anna)
Germany (Mary C.)
Alliance of Small Island States (Chloe)

Minor roles (Administer the meeting and ask at least one question of each presenter):
IPCC panel (George, Will, Nathan, Jia)