

Debate Prompts

In each scenario, you are either a proponent or an opponent of the proposal. The debate is over the direction of public policy planning (setting aside the intricacies of actual implementation).

1. Should inter-city railway tracks be publicly owned?
2. Should urban street parking spots be privately owned?
3. Should US cities invest more in expanding their bus transit network rather than their rail transit network?
4. Should Helsinki price discriminate on its City Bikes fares across time and space?
5. Should prices of public transit season tickets be income-dependent?

The structure of the debate is as follows:

1. Proponents have 10 minutes to present their case first and are free to expand on the details of the original prompt as they see fit. They have 3-5 minutes to respond to questions from the audience.
2. Opponents have 10 minutes to present their case against the proposal. They have 3-5 minutes to respond to questions from the audience.
3. Proponents have 5 minutes to respond to opponents' critique.
4. Opponents have 5 minutes to respond back.
5. Up to 5 minutes of flexible back-and-forth

When it is your turn to present, you may use slides and other visual aids to supplement your arguments. You should take turns presenting and everyone in a group must present to get credit.

In addition, your team should submit a 1-2 page written policy outline

- Refining your stance on the debate topic
- Summarizing your main arguments

Upload to MyCourses by:

- 1 Feb 20:00 for debate topics 1 and 2
- 3 Feb 20:00 for debate topics 3, 4 and 5

Assessment

Total: 20 points

- 5 points for policy outline
- 10 points for prepared presentation of your case.
- 4 points for rebuttals and responses to questions.
- 1 point for “winning” the debate (to be determined by everyone else in the class).

Grading criteria:

- Clarity of presentation and coherence of reasoning (40%)
- Incorporation of economic concepts from the course (40%)
- Use of empirical evidence to bolster arguments (20%)

Group Assignments

1. Should inter-city railway tracks be publicly owned?

- **Yes:** Iina Rusanen, Chris Yung, Veeti Kuivanen, Rosemarie Maya
- **No:** Otto Tarnanen, An Duong, Florian Wiest*, Aku Staff

2. Should urban street parking spots be privately owned?

- **Yes:** Antonio Fadel da Costa, Ilmari PyykköJani, Jani Järviluoto, Viola Väänänen
- **No:** Lotta Keskinen, Sol Eun Park, Samuel Babjak, Riina Hiltula

3. Should US cities invest more in expanding their bus transit network rather than their rail transit network?

- **Yes:** Aino Lahnalampi, Niklas Astala, Yuxi Shen, Jenni Kujala
- **No:** Carlos Arturo León Acevedo, Venla Moisio, Wenchan Zhao, Naomi Salama

4. Should Helsinki price discriminate on its City Bikes fares across time and space?

- **Yes:** Dat Truong Tuan, Eemeli Ahvenniemi, Matias Säämäki, Joel Leppänen
- **No:** Chen Xin, Maria Käpyvaara, Linda Autio, Iaroslav Kriuchkov*

5. Should prices of public transit season tickets be income-dependent?

- **No:** Christopher Kane, Janne Kousa, Samu Hasegawa, Joonas Aspegren
- **Yes:** Antto Tukia, Laura Jaunäkä, Kalle Laukkanen, Valtteri Lammasaari