

21H.141
Spring 2015

SECOND DEBATE RESOLUTION & FORMAT

Debate resolution:

“Sir Isaac Newton was the last of the great Renaissance humanists, not the first modern scientist.”

[N.B. Be sure to consult the readings for Session 18, as well as “[The Newton Project](#)” web site. You may wish to read more from Dobb’s and Jacob’s *Newton and the Culture of Newtonianism*]

Division of teams:

Pro: Three MIT students

Con: Three MIT students

Round 1

- Pro side presents its argument (5-7 minutes)
- Con side presents its argument (5-7 minutes)

5-minute break to prepare rebuttals

Round 2

- Questions from debaters and audience (30-45 minutes)

5-minute break to prepare closing statements

Round 3

- Closing statements by con and pro sides, in that order (3 minutes each)
- Vote by class to determine winner
- Awarding of “Renaissance to Revolution”-themed prize!

Debate teams may want to meet ahead of time to prepare the arguments they will use during the debate. Teams should also anticipate their opponent's arguments and questions from the floor, and prepare rebuttal points. Each team should designate ahead of time who will a) deliver the opening argument; b) respond to questions; and c) make the closing statement. Each speaker should stand when presenting an argument, and should speak slowly and clearly. If possible, practice your presentations before the day of the debate.

Finally, at the start of the debate each participant is required to turn in a single-sided, one-page position statement. This statement should also include two questions you might ask the other team during the Q & A part of the debate. Each team member will be graded individually.

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