

Project Overview

It's no secret that the Greasers and the Socials in S.E. Hinton's novel, **The Outsiders**, don't like each other. And it's no secret that their resentment of each other leads to serious problems. But who's to blame for these problems?

Your task in this debate project is to defend one of the two positions provided below to answer this question.

For the purpose of the debate, it is not important whether you actually agree with the position you will be asked to defend.

| POSTION A The Greasers | POSITION B The Socials |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Johnny was justified in killing Bob. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Johnny was not justified in killing Bob |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Johnny and Ponyboy should not have stayed and taken the consequences for Bob's death. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Johnny and Ponyboy should have stayed and taken the consequences for Bob's death |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Socials were responsible for starting the rumble. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Greasers were responsible for starting the rumble. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Socials were responsible for causing Johnny's death. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Socials were not responsible for causing Johnny's death. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dally was not responsible for causing his own death. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dally was responsible for causing his own death. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">The primary theme of The Outsiders is "true friends are friends forever." | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The primary theme of The Outsiders is "nothing good lasts for ever." |

You will be working with a debate partner who shares the same position as you. Both you and your debate partner will be responsible for the following:

- **Note Taking**

1. Using the book, **The Outsiders**, you will develop a set of **Research Notes** that can be used to help you argue your position. Your notes should include page number(s) indicating where your information came from.
2. During the debate you will take notes on the arguments used by your debate opponents so you may counter their arguments.

- **Writing**

1. You will write a **Position Paper** using your research. Your Position Paper should represent, in writing, the basic arguments you and your debate partner will use to defend your position.
2. You will write a **Personal Reflection** after the debate is over. The Personal Reflection will include your thoughts and impressions about this debate project.

- **Speaking And Listening**

1. You will be expected to articulate the arguments you've developed for your position in a debate. Your arguments should be reasonable, using the factual information you've been able to get from the book. Name calling, personal attacks, yelling, and the like have no place in this debate.
2. You will be expected to listen carefully to your opponents' arguments. Your responses to what they say are important. If you don't listen carefully, your responses may not be as good as they might be.

- **Debate Costume**

1. You will be responsible for dressing as a Greaser or Social (based upon your debate position) the day of the debate.
2. You should not buy any new clothing for your costume. We will discuss costume possibilities in class prior to the debate.