

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Are you interested in taking part in a second debate? Yes No

PHILOSOPHY 1100 – INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

PREFERENCES FOR DEBATE TOPICS

There will be either five or six in-class debates, possibly starting in the recitation section on Friday, October 5. The debate topics will be chosen from the following nine topics, based on student interest in each topic. The other topics will then be the subject of discussions, rather than of debates.

Debate Topic 1: Everything in the Bible is true.

Debate Topic 2: The Bible is a completely reliable source of information about what actions are morally right and morally wrong.

Debate Topic 3: It is morally wrong for unmarried people to engage in sexual intercourse.

Debate Topic 4: The enjoyment of pornography is morally wrong.

Debate Topic 5: Homosexual sex is morally wrong.

Debate Topic 6: Voluntary active euthanasia should remain illegal.

Debate Topic 7: Some non-human animals have serious moral rights.

Debate Topic 8: The cloning of humans should never be permitted.

Debate Topic 9: Abortion is very seriously wrong, because it is murder.

Each debate will involve four people, two on the affirmative side, and two on the negative side. If the number in the recitation section is not divisible by four, this means that volunteers will be needed to take part in a second debate. So if you enjoy participating in debates, and would like to take part in a second one, please indicate this in the relevant place above at the top of the page.

After filling in your name, together with a phone number and e-mail address where you can be reached by your debate partner, and an indication of whether you would be interested in taking part in a second debate at the appropriate places on the top of this page, please go on to complete sections I and II on the next page. In section I, please indicate your relative enthusiasm, or lack of enthusiasm, for defending the affirmative side on each of the nine topics listed. Decide which topic would be your first choice if you were taking the affirmative side, and circle the number 1 on the series of numbers immediately under that topic. Then decide on your second choice of a topic on which to take the affirmative side, and circle the number 2 on the series of numbers immediately under that topic. Continue in this way until you have ranked all of the topics, through to the one on which you would least like to be taking the affirmative side, and for which you should circle the number 9 in the series of numbers immediately under that topic.

Repeat this process for section II, indicating your relative enthusiasm, or absence thereof, for defending the negative side of each of the nine topics, with the number 1 representing the topic that would be your first choice if you were defending the negative side, and the number 9 representing the topic on which you would least like to be on the negative side.

As the topics may vary considerably in popularity, you should not expect to get your first choice, but a strong attempt will be made not to assign anyone to a topic that he or she finds very unappealing.

Section I: Preferences Regarding the Affirmative Side of Each Topic

1. Everything in the Bible is true.

Affirmative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

2. The Bible is a completely reliable source of information about what is morally right and morally wrong.

Affirmative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

3. It is morally wrong for unmarried people to engage in sexual intercourse.

Affirmative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

4. The enjoyment of pornography is morally wrong.

Affirmative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

5. Homosexual sex is morally wrong.

Affirmative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

6. Voluntary active euthanasia should remain illegal.

Affirmative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

7. Some non-human animals have serious moral rights.

Affirmative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

8. The cloning of humans should never be permitted.

Affirmative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

9. Abortion is very seriously wrong, because it is murder.

Affirmative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

Section II: Preferences Regarding the Negative Side of Each Topic

1. Everything in the Bible is true.

Negative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

2. The Bible is a completely reliable source of information about what is morally right and morally wrong.

Negative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

3. It is morally wrong for unmarried people to engage in sexual intercourse.

Negative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

4. The enjoyment of pornography is morally wrong.

Negative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

5. Homosexual sex is morally wrong.

Negative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

6. Voluntary active euthanasia should remain illegal.

Negative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

7. Some non-human animals have serious moral rights.

Negative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

8. The cloning of humans should never be permitted.

Negative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least

9. Abortion is very seriously wrong, because it is murder.

Negative Side: Most 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Least