

English 10
Propositions for Debate

We will decide together which of these propositions to pursue, and then I will assign the teams to affirmative and negative for the proposition.

1. Proposition: The novel argues that opposing temperaments are necessary for successful relationships.
2. Proposition: Sense and sensibility are opposites, and the novel favors sense.
3. Proposition: The novel argues that if one follows one's heart, what's materially needed will follow.
4. Proposition: The absence of fathers is what accounts in the confusion of the novel's young men.
5. Proposition: The novel critiques its culture's ideas of motherhood, indicting the harm that narcissistic mothers cause and providing few models of motherly love.
6. Proposition: The novel's critique of the role of women is radical, like Wollstonecraft's, rather than moderate, like Edgeworth's.
7. Proposition: The main value in the novel is sensibility, and sense is a kind of sensibility.
8. Proposition: The novel strongly prefers use (utilitarianism) to beauty.

Within the groups, people will decide on roles, keeping in mind the format of the debate (a separate handout).

- Groups will let me know their members' roles (opening speech, cross examination...) by class time Thurs, 19 May.
- Longer speeches may be split among group members, but there should be enough collaboration that the information is coherent and not repetitive.
- Students may work independently or collaboratively within their groups, but should not work across groups.
- Students will need to be able to communicate privately during the debate. Note-passing permitted!
- Groups should announce at the beginning of the debate who will be doing what.
- Students should turn in speeches (written as notes) and other materials at the end of the debate.
- Speakers should reference the text frequently by quoting (and citing) and showing a good, coherent understanding of how events fit together.