

Vassar 2022 Invitational Motions

Round One:

THBT colleges should bar standardized testing as a determinant of academic admissions.

THBT the United States should have free public colleges.

THW implement a uniform curriculum for all public schools in the United States.

Round Two:

THBT nuclear energy is better for the environment than other forms of renewable energy

THBT there should be a mandatory cap and trade program for carbon emissions in the United States.

Cap and trade is a system designed to limit pollution in the atmosphere. The cap places a firm limit on how much large companies are allowed to emit, which is lowered over time. The trade is a market that enables companies to purchase and sell allowances that let them emit only a certain amount, as supply and demand set the price.

THBT students should be encouraged to strike for climate change.

Starting with Greta Thunberg, students around the world have walked out of/missed school (typically on Fridays) in order to protest lack of action in fighting climate change.

Round Three:

THBT protest in front of the private property of public servants is a legal means of democratic expression.

THBT the restriction of accounts known to spread false information is an affront on personal liberties.

THBT social media websites should be able to mine data.

Round Four:

THBT the pledge of allegiance should not be recited in schools.

THBT school uniforms are beneficial to student's education.

THBT American public schools should not ban books.

Round Five:

THBT Supreme Court justices should have term limits.

THBT the United States federal government should expand the number of justices on the Supreme Court.

THBT voting in all democratic nations should be mandatory.

Varsity Quarters:

THBT drug companies should not be allowed to patent any vaccines or medication.

THBT the market inflation of life-saving pharmaceuticals should not be allowed.

THBT the United States federal government should legalize marijuana.

Novice Semis:

THBT the benefits of the United States providing military aid to Taiwan outweigh the harms.

THBT the United Nations should impose a ban on lethal autonomous weapons.

THBT the harms of the United States 2020 withdrawal from Afghanistan outweigh the benefits.

Varsity Semis:

THW eliminate the charitable donation deduction for income tax purposes.

THBT the United States should establish a universal basic income.

THBT monopolies are beneficial in a free market economy.

Novice Finals:

THBT incarcerated criminals should retain the right to vote in United States elections.

THBT the death penalty is should be abolished.

THBT all individuals incarcerated for non-violent drug-related crimes should be released.

Varsity Finals:

THW pull the lever in the trolley problem killing one person and saving five.

The trolley problem is an ethics and psychology thought experiment that goes as follows: You find yourself at a lever. A runaway trolley approaches five people who are tied to the tracks. Pulling the level will divert the trolley to a different set of tracks where only one person is tied down.

THBT censorship can never be justified.

THBT civil disobedience is justified in democracies.