

HSB4U: Culminating Activity: Round Table Discussions



For your culminating activity in HSB4U, you will facilitate a round table on a contemporary social issue of your choice related to human development. The issue must be complex and controversial enough to warrant debate/discussion. A round table is a form of academic discussion. Participants agree on a specific topic to discuss and debate. Each person is given equal right to participate, as illustrated by the idea of a circular layout referred to in the term round table. The round table discussion is worth **30% of your final grade**. Some sample topics include: animal rights, ethics, gene manipulation, the housing crisis, etc.

Components:



1. Audio/Visual Backgrounder and Agenda:

You will provide a brief presentation (15-20 minutes) to inform the class about your issue, attempting to deliver an unbiased political, economic, and social **backgrounder** or overview of the issue. You need to provide a solid theoretical background about the issue with multiple facts and figures to support your argument. This should include a lot of detail in general.

Your presentation will conclude with an **agenda** of the **topics and corresponding questions** that you would like to focus on and address during the course of the round table discussion.

Your presentation can take any of the following formats: **Google Slides; PowerPoint; Prezi; Sway**

2. Supporting Materials:

***NOTE:** Supporting materials **MUST** be provided to the teacher **the day before (at the beginning of class)** the scheduled round table in order for the teacher to photocopy the necessary materials so the class can prepare. You are responsible for getting the debate going with arguments.



a. Handout:

- i) brief backgrounder/overview of your chosen issue
- ii) *at least* one (1) article for the class to read prior to the round table – due the day before
- iii) *at least* 3 questions / discussion starters to focus the round table discussion; no more than 6 questions



b. Annotated Bibliography (Four academic sources, APA Format)

This course emphasizes the ability to communicate ideas succinctly and effectively and, while personal opinions are meaningful, it is necessary to ground such ideas in research. The use of research will allow you to rethink and critically assess your own ideas and perspectives. This involves compiling a list of references of appropriate research sources and creating an annotated bibliography to provide to the class as an appendix to your handout. The entire presentation and discussion should take **45-60 minutes**.

Please note: discussions will not be postponed due to absence; students will be assessed on the facilitation of their own round table issue as well as **participation** in their classmates' round table discussions, therefore, attendance and punctuality is imperative.

HSB4U Culminating Activity: Round Table Discussions Evaluation

	Level 1 (50-59%)	Level 2 (60-69%)	Level 3 (70-79%)	Level 4 (80-100%)
Knowledge -Audio-visual backgrounder explores the topic in enough detail; the presenter is well informed on the topic -The handout provides a thorough explanation of the issue and why it is a debatable topic	Audio-visual backgrounder explores the topic in limited detail; the presenter is well informed on the topic. The handout provides a poor explanation of the issue and why it is a debatable topic.	Audio-visual backgrounder explores the topic in some detail; the presenter is somewhat informed on the topic, but certain aspects are vague. The handout provides an adequate explanation of the issue and why it is a debatable topic.	Audio-visual backgrounder explores the topic in detail; the presenter is well informed on the topic. The handout provides a good explanation of the issue and why it is a debatable topic, but a few more details would make for a more complete overview of the topic.	Audio-visual backgrounder explores the topic in a high degree of detail; the presenter is highly informed on the topic, and all aspects are explained very clearly. The handout provides an excellent explanation of the issue and why it is a debatable topic.
Thinking -No bias is evident in the presenter's approach to the topic; he or she thinks critically about the topic -The agenda is very clear and explains what will be discussed The discussion questions are effective at stimulating a dialogue	Much bias is indicated in the presenter's approach to the topic; both sides are not represented. The agenda is poor and does not clearly state what will be discussed. The questions stimulate dialogue with limited effectiveness.	Some bias is indicated in the presenter's approach to the topic; both sides are not fully represented. The agenda is adequate and somewhat clearly states what will be discussed. The questions stimulate dialogue with some effectiveness.	No bias is indicated in the presenter's approach to the topic; both sides are represented well. The agenda is good and clearly states what will be discussed. The questions stimulate dialogue with considerable effectiveness.	No bias is indicated in the presenter's approach to the topic; both sides are very thoroughly represented. The agenda is excellent and clearly states what will be discussed. The questions stimulate dialogue with high effectiveness; the generated dialogue is very good.
Communication -Makes good eye contact with the audience -He or she is prepared and speaks clearly and audibly -He or she responds well to questions, comments, and criticisms, and keeps the discussion going -He or she participates in other discussions	Makes limited eye contact with the audience. He or she is poorly prepared and rarely speaks clearly and audibly. He or she responds poorly to questions, comments, and criticisms, and keeps the discussion going with limited success.	Makes some eye contact with the audience. He or she is somewhat prepared and rarely speaks clearly and audibly some of the time. He or she responds adequately to questions, comments, and criticisms, and keeps the discussion going with some success.	Makes a lot of eye contact with the audience. He or she is well prepared and rarely speaks clearly and audibly most of the time. He or she responds to questions, comments, and criticisms, and keeps the discussion going with considerable success. He or she participates in many other presentations.	Makes very frequent to constant eye contact with the audience. He or she is very well prepared and rarely speaks clearly and audibly for the entire presentation. He or she responds to questions, comments, and criticisms, and keeps the discussion going with very much success; the dialogue leaves a lasting impression.

	He or she participates in very few other presentations.	He or she participates in a few other presentations.		He or she participates in very many other presentations.
Application -The article is relevant to the topic and is very engaging -The sources were very reliable and academic, current, and contributed to an informed and valid presentation overall. -He or she makes connections to other topics, theories, or challenges from the course -Everything was properly cited in accordance with APA formatting	The article is not very relevant to the topic and is not overly engaging. A few of the sources were reliable and academic, current, and contributed to a poorly informed and not overly valid presentation overall. He or she makes a few connections to other topics, theories, or challenges from the course. Citations in accordance with APA formatting were done with limited success.	The article is somewhat relevant to the topic and is satisfactory in terms of its engagement. Some of the sources were reliable and academic, current, and contributed to an informed and somewhat valid presentation overall. He or she makes some connections to other topics, theories, or challenges from the course. Citations in accordance with APA formatting were done with some success.	The article is quite relevant to the topic and is effective in terms of its engagement. Most of the sources were reliable and academic, current, and contributed to an informed and valid presentation overall. He or she makes many connections to other topics, theories, or challenges from the course. Citations in accordance with APA formatting were done with considerable success.	The article is highly relevant to the topic and is very effective in terms of its engagement. All of the sources were reliable and academic, current, and contributed to a very informed and valid presentation overall. He or she makes very many connections to other topics, theories, or challenges from the course of a high quality. Citations in accordance with APA formatting were done with much success.

Comments/Strengths/Weaknesses/Next Steps: