Debate Format

Resolved: anthropology should be a predictive science and not an interpretive humanity

4/15

Resolved: human minds, not material reality, create cultures

4/17

Resolved: anthropology should be a neutral discipline and not advocate for particular positions

4/24

Debate presentations will take the following form: Team 1 will present an opening statement (5 minutes), followed by Team 2’s opening statement (5 minutes). Then, Team 1 will present evidence to support their side (12 minutes), and Team 2 will present evidence to support their side (12 minutes). There will be a 5 minute interlude for both sides to construct their counter-arguments. Then, Team 1 will rebut the evidence from the other side (12 minutes), and Team 2 will rebut the evidence from their opponents (12 minutes). Then, Team 1 will summarize and close (5 minutes), followed by Team 2’s closing statement (5 minutes). The audience will take the rest of the class period to finalize their notes and to ask questions.

Debate Teams will be evaluated by me based on their appropriate use of primary sources (both assigned texts and other sources; 40%), their logical argument, including rebuttal of points raised (40%), and their one-paragraph (anonymous) assessment of their partner’s contributions (20%). 40 points.

Audience members will be submit within 48 hours from the end of class their 2-3 page assessment of which side had the stronger arguments (40 + 40 pts, 80 total). Grading will be based on the author’s logic as well as by supportive evidence mentioned by classmates in the debate. Strength of personality or comfort of presenter will not be issues in your decision.