

# Sparta vs. Athens Debate

On Wednesday, October 27th, we will debate the following topic: *Sparta vs. Athens – Which is the superior city-state?*

There will be 3 groups of people participating in this debate.

**Team Sparta** (8 members): Sparta is the superior city-state.

**Team Athens** (8 members): Athens is the superior city-state.

**Moderators** (8 members)

## Team Sparta/Athens Instructions:

1. You are to gather information – facts – to support your argument. If you are arguing that Sparta was superior, find facts to support that idea. Why was it superior? If Athens is the superior city-state, find facts to support that. Consider the following areas regarding each city-state and divide these topics up within your group:

Government / political structure

Education

Roles of women and children

Military strength / alliances

Economy

Social or Class Structure

Lifestyle, Values and Beliefs

Cultural Achievements / Legacies

2. You must investigate your opponents' society as well. What were its strengths and weaknesses in the above areas? As a team, you can decide how to gather information. You may use your textbook, class notes, the library, the internet, and other sources.

3. **Debate Day**

On the day of the debate, you must turn in the Athens/Sparta Debate Fact Sheet, completed with your research and arguments. Each team member must have at least three arguments (this includes arguments for your city-state OR against the opposing city-state).

During the debate, each student must explain at least ONE argument pertaining to his/her topic and offer challenges or rebuttals to opposition. All students must be prepared to defend their position against their opponents.

## Moderator Instructions:

You are to research both societies using the Athens/Sparta Debate Fact Sheet for Moderators. On the day of the debate, armed with foreknowledge of the two societies, you will listen carefully to the arguments and rebuttals presented and, using the Classroom Debate Rubric, decide which team best supported the argument that their city-state is superior. That team will be the winner of the debate. The rubric will be turned in at the end of the debate.