

## **9/14 – Equality (Gender)**

**6th/7th grade – P4.2.2 Engage in activities intended to contribute to solving a national or international problem studied.**

Students will engage in a debate about gender equality for the purpose of solving a national problem. Teachers can use this debate as an informal assessment to gauge student comprehension in regard to the fundamentals of equality paired with a modern issue. Although some students may find this format to be of a higher level of difficulty, the issue being debated should be approachable for most 6th and/or 7th grade students. Teachers should be aware of the time needed to scaffold teaching this format of debate.

### **Time frame:**

2-3 days

- 1 day of introduction to debate and the topic
- 1 day of research and writing speeches
- 1 day to hold a practice debate, followed by the actual debate

### **Materials needed:**

Access to technology (preferably google docs so students can collaborate)

[Pro/Con speech outline](#)

[Topic resources](#)

Paper

Pen/Pencil

[Debate time frame](#)

### **Topic:**

The United States Senate should adopt the Paycheck Fairness Act.

### **Topic defined:**

Paycheck Fairness Act

This bill amends equal pay provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to:

- (1) restrict the use of the bona fide factor defense to wage discrimination claims,
- (2) enhance non-retaliation provisions,
- (3) make it unlawful to require an employee to sign a contract or waiver prohibiting the employee from disclosing information about the employee's wages, and
- (4) increase civil penalties for violations of equal pay provisions.

The bill directs the Department of Labor to:

- (1) establish and carry out a grant program for negotiation skills training for girls and women,
- (2) conduct studies to eliminate pay disparities between men and women, and
- (3) make available information on wage discrimination to assist the public in understanding and addressing such discrimination.

## **Pro/Con speech outline**

Introduction: (state your reasons here)

....my partner and I firmly affirm/negate the resolution which states: The United States Senate should adopt the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Reason 1:

- Evidence
- Impact (why your reason and evidence matter)

TRANSITION sentence to \_\_\_\_\_

Reason 2:

- Evidence
- Impact (why your reason and evidence matter)

TRANSITION sentence to \_\_\_\_\_

Reason 3:

- Evidence
- Impact (why your reason and evidence matter)

Conclusion: Bring it back to the introduction.

**Debate time frame**

**Team A, 1st speaker .....4 min.**

**Team B, 1st speaker.....4 min.**

**Crossfire (team A & B).....3 min.**

**Team A, 2nd speaker .....4 min.**

**Team B, 2nd speaker .....4 min.**

**Crossfire (between team A & B).....3 min.**

**Team A Summary.....2 min.**

**Team B Summary.....2 min.**

**Grand Crossfire (all speakers) .....3 min.**

**Team A Conclusion.....2 min.**

**Team B Conclusion.....2 min.**