Recent Collegiate Debate Topics
(Chosen by students and faculty across the U.S. – updated June 2023)

Speech and free expression topics:

- Should colleges disallow controversial speech that could be construed as hate speech?
- Should college campuses disinvite speakers whose ideas can be construed as “cancellable”?
- Should colleges impose limits on speech on their campuses?
- Should social media corporations have control over what is said on their platforms and who can use them?
- Is cancel culture erasing free speech in America?
- Is social media misinformation a threat to democracy?
- Is deplatforming a valid act on college campuses?
- Does regulating social media content do more harm than good?

Abortion topics:

- Without access to abortion, can women achieve equality with men?
- Do the rights of an adult woman take precedence of the rights of a fetus?
- Should abortion have no restrictions within the United States?

Healthcare topics:

- Is healthcare a human right?
- Should everyone be required to receive a COVID vaccine?
- Should our college require COVID vaccination for students and staff?
- Do public health considerations outweigh individual civil liberties?
- Should government provide healthcare for all citizens?

Contact: dsprei@goacta.org
• Does the government have the right to impose mandatory quarantines that deprive individuals of freedom of movement?

Gun control topics:

• Should the U.S. implement more restrictive gun laws to reduce crime?
• Should assault weapons be banned?
• Should guns be banned on college campuses?
• Should average U.S. citizens be able to possess semi-automatic guns?
• Should the Second Amendment be abolished?

Assorted topics:

• Should monuments that are perceived as symbols of racism, such as Confederate statues, be removed from public view?
• Should police departments be defunded?
• Should local governments defund police departments and redirect funds toward alternative solutions for public safety?
• Should there be term limits for the Supreme Court?
• Do requirements for voter identification cards and restrictions on mail-in ballots suppress voting rights of minorities?
• Should non-discrimination laws take precedence over religious liberty?
• Should schools teach about racism?
• Should schools teach Critical Race Theory?
• Should our immigration laws be changed to allow for quicker citizenship?
• Should children born on U.S. soil to non-citizens automatically have U.S. citizenship?
• Should women in the U.S. military be assigned combat roles?

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• Should the U.S. adopt a completely open borders policy?
• Should the U.S. build the southern border wall?
• Should the U.S. military intervene in response to human rights violations?
• Should journalists value objectivity over advocacy in reporting?
• Should the minimum wage be raised at the Federal level?
• Should transgender athletes compete in women’s sports?
• Will transgender athlete participation end women’s sports?
• Did the Portland protests do more harm than good?
• Do online college classes do more good than harm?
• Should Americans receive Universal Basic Income?
• In the U.S., should the states develop their own climate change policies?
• Should North Carolina’s Senate pass the Parents Bill of Rights? (SB49)
• Should student loan debt be forgiven?
• Does society unfairly prioritize sports over music and arts programs?
• Should the drinking age be lowered to 18?
• Does science compel us to accept that the human condition should be improved by genetic engineering?
• Should physician-assisted should be legalized?
• Should colleges adopt a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty?
• Is ChatGPT a threat to higher education?
• Does AI provide more benefit than harm to humanity?